AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER

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The Premier League begins... comprehensive ABSW guide pages 24 & 25

TREASON

Blanco's Olympic selections tainted by Player abandonment

Jacob Burns: Club or Country?

By John Economos

Raul Blanco, Australia's Olympic Games coach is far from happy over the past week or so, following a string of his players that have most surprisingly elected to declare themselves unavailable to play for Australia at the Olympic Games next month.

Not only has he had to laboriously organise his serious preparations whilst operating under the persistent threatening cloud that the big Euro clubs may refuse, or delay, the release of some of his Olympic squad stars, Blanco over the past week has been slammed by even the direct refusal by at least another four of his players to be available for the Games.

Defender Ivan Zelic, goalkeeper Peter Zois, central defender Chris Coyne and as of last Sunday, Jacob Burns, have all declared themselves unavailable to be part of the Olympics.

The latest to drop out was the Parramatta Power's utility player Burns who last Sunday night withdrew himself off the list as one of Australia's four-man stand-by players.

It seems that now, enough is enough and Blanco, together with the alarmed Board of Commissioners of Soccer Australia, are ready to install drastic measures to immediately plug up any such further defections from any of our national teams in the future.

From the Australian Olympic squad's training camp at the Hilton On The Park in Melbourne, an angry Blanco stated to ABSW last night:

"I don't expect any problems from any of the Euro clubs in releasing any of my Aussie players.

"But it's most disrespectful to Australia when players themselves start making themselves unavailable to play for their country.

"To say that I'm disappointed and sad is a great understatement," Blanco stressed.

Continued Page 3

Raul Blanco: After the announcement of the Olympic team.

ANOTHER AUSSIE HEADS FOR ENGLAND

By John Economos

Michael Galluzzo, the Leichhardt Tigers' central defender or midfielder, is the latest young Australian to head overseas seeking fame and fortune through a professional contract with a big club.

The former Australian young international midfielder is to embark on a four week trial period with English Premier League side, Everton.

Galluzzo, who was the Leichhardt Tigers' 'Player Of the Year' this season in the NSW Super League which has just ended, spent 12 years with the Marconi Juniors, when last year he was surprisingly loaned out by the NSL Club.

Michael Galluzzo: Off to Everton for trials.

Galluzzo played for Australia in the Under 17s alongside Harry Kewell against Brazil in the quarter finals during the 1996 World Championships staged in Ecuador.

In this game Galluzzo was voted 'Man Of The Match' for Australia.

It's understood that the 21-year-old Australian will for the entire four weeks be sharing accommodation whilst in England with illustrious company.

The Everton management has arranged that he shares accommodation with none other than former England World Cup star and midfield genius, Paul Gascoigne.

OLYMPIC SQUAD ANNOUNCED PAGE 3, 5 & 7

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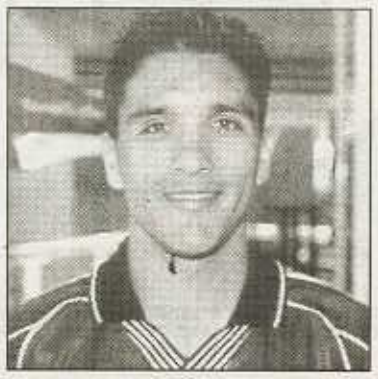
CARDOZO STARTS GREEK CUP MATCH

By Mark Stavroulakis

Aussie Pablo Cardozo who has recently joined newly promoted Greek 1st division side Athinaikos is happy in Greece.

Speaking from his lavish apartment in Greece, Pablo admits that Greek life and soccer is at it's very best. "So far my stay here in Greece has been great. The people have been good to me, the squad is very strong with many players speaking English and also two players are Spanish speaking, which makes it easier for me. Training at the club has been good as well, the facilities are awesome and all is ready for my first season in Greek football," said the former Sydney Olympic striker.

The Greek club have been more than impressed by the talented striker and have treated well so far. Pablo believes that the Greek style of soccer will benefit him greatly this year. "The style of soccer in Greece best suits my style as the ball is always played on the ground. The league itself will be the best it's been for a long time this year with many teams buying top quality players. Teams like Athinaikos are vying for a UEFA spot next season, that is what I intend to do in helping the team achieve its goals."



Pablo Cardozo

Cardozo turned out in a Cup match for Athinaikos over the weekend against Pierikos where the match finished 1-1.

TALKING WITH MR ED

It's amazing how we are always talking about national pride and what it is like to play for your country. So this week's column will be short and sweet (or sour), whichever you prefer.

Gentlemen of the Australian Olympic team: If you are offered the chance to play at the Olympic Games you TAKE IT!

I am appalled by the attitude of some. Raul Blanco and the entire staff involved with the Olympic team have worked tirelessly to get you this far and to be shunned before possibly our finest hour is ridiculous. To be frank, you have no right to decline the offer to play unless you are injured especially after all the time and money that has been invested in you over the past few years.

Career abroad or otherwise, this is the Games and this is what all the players have strived for.

Perhaps some of those involved should talk to some of the players who genuinely missed out or perhaps talk to Michael Curcija - who with an overseas contract was the first player to report for camp.

Good Luck to Raul and all the boys and may this sorry saga not effect the team in any way and may the medal we win in September be the right one.

COSMOS STAY ALIVE

By Graham Cooke

If force of personality was all that was required to run football clubs, then Canberra Cosmos would be looking forward to a championship season.

As it is, there are still a few hurdles to be negotiated before the club from the national capital can be certain of retaining their five-year membership of the NSL.

Club chairman Danny Moulis drew a round of enthusiastic applause at last week's press conference when he announced "Cosmos are go for this year".

And the achievements of the last six weeks since he took over have been truly impressive.

In that time Canberra has gone for a moribund club with no income, several hundred thousand dollars worth of debt, and a chairman who had just resigned, to an outfit which has a fighting chance of survival with a projected season's budget of $1.5 million.

But the club must still negotiate their way though a meeting of all creditors fixed for this week. There Cosmos officials will outline a plan to repay debts at 10c in the dollar, with the possibility of further payments over time.

Most importantly, they must get the powerful Professional Footballers Association to agree to proposals which will see last year's playing staff receive all the money owed to them.

Finally, the Cosmos have to convince NSL administrators their plan is solidly based and will not end in another Adelaide Sharks debacle.

NORTHERN NSW GRAND FINALS

By Greg Danvers

Hamilton Olympic collected their third consecutive NBN Soccer League grand final trophy after beating premiers Edgeworth Eagles 3-0 on Sunday at Breakers Stadium.

Hamilton beat Broadmeadow Magic in 1998 and Adamstown Rosebuds last year in the season finales but Edgeworth has been the dominant force in the competition proper having won the premiership for three years running.

According to coach Bobby Namouv who personally has not tasted a grand final victory in First Division as either a player or coach, his side saved their worst game, of the year, until the end.

"Basically we picked the last game of the season to play our worst game," Namouv said after his team's 3-0 grand final loss.

"We'll be back next year."

Hamilton started the match at cracker jack pace and drew first blood in the 20th minute. Craig Wallwork volleyed home from the edge of the box after John Gibson and Peter McGuiness combined in short corner on the right side.

McGuiness clipped the ball into the area for Gary Wilson to nod away with the ball falling to Wallwork and his volley beat Eagles keeper Dean Conway's outstretched arm into the top left corner.

Corey Filipcevik sent the Olympic supporters into raptures with a tap in, after Conway failed to take a high lob into the area, from close range on the stroke of half time.

The second half was marred with some niggle as the physical style of Hamilton started to grind on the Eagles players.

Super sub Stuart McAteer sealed the match 10 minutes after being injected into the match slotting the ball past Conway at the far post in the 83rd minute.

Edgeworth won the reserve grade decider on penalties while Maitland beat Hamilton on the youth grade.

West Wallsend won 1-0 over Medowie in the 2HD grand final on Saturday at Breakers Stadium.

Veteran striker Cameron Wallace put the premiers in command for the double with a great strike from outside the area into the top of the net before the break.

West Wallsend won the reserve grade match 4-0 over Belmont-Tingira while University notched their first win, in their first year in second division, 2-0 over Belmont in the youth grade.

CARLTON AIMS FOR EPPING

By Bert van Bedaf

Melbourne national league club Carlton wants to play its first home match of the coming NSL season at Epping stadium in the city's outer suburb of Whittlesea.

Last season's base Olympic Park has proved a financial disaster to the tune of $300,000 and new options are being sought for next season.

Former independent federal parliamentarian and now club consultant, Phil Cleary confirmed Carlton's plans to ABSW.

"Olympic Park has proved too hard. It's been too difficult to get a crowd. We've had serious discussions with the Whittlesea Council. Carlton has 15 home games. We'd like to play about five games at Epping stadium," Cleary said.

He denied rumours the club had been offered for sale to South Melbourne.

"That is not true. Our discussions (with South Melbourne) covered a range (of topics), but we didn't talk of selling (the club)," Cleary said.

A preliminary draw pits the Blues against Canberra Cosmos on Sunday, October 15 with Epping stadium as the preferred venue.

ACT PREMIERSHIP – THE FINALS

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen United kept alive hopes of maintaining their trophy-a-year average under coach Lino Fiorese by winning through to this week's ACT Premiership grand final.

The club from the Northern Suburbs swept aside the challenge of Canberra Olympic with a 3-0 win in the preliminary final,. a result which, if anything, flattered an out-of-sorts and unadventurous Olympic.

Belconnen played their usual orthodox, generally error-free game and waited for the mistakes to come. On this occasion they did not have to wait for long and, once the score began to mount against them, Olympic seemed to have no ideas about how to stem the tide.

As a result the second half was a tedious affair as United shut down the game and, in the words of Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo, "went into cruise control".

"I don't think we would have scored if we had played till the cows came home," he said afterwards.

In contrast, United had the game well and truly milked of any uncertainties before half time. Olympic goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou gave in to a moment of extreme rashness, rushing from goal to pursue a less than 50-50 chance of cutting out Geoff Howarth. Once he failed, his goal was at the mercy of Belconnen, and Marko Perinovic showed none by turning the ball in at the far post.

With just over half an hour gone, it was Perinovic again, this time heading home from a Howarth cross.

Then, five minutes before half time, Daniel Camara took advantage of some really slack defending to race through and ram the ball into the back of the net.

That left Olympic with the proverbial mountain to climb in the second half, but in fact they could not even negotiate the foothills.

Instead it was Belconnen who threatened to score again, Konstantinou forced into a number of saves which made the difference between being well beaten and an embarrassing thrashing.

Giampaolo said that up to the first goal he believed his side had had their noses in front.

"But in the end we were guilty of trying to play too much pretty football at the back," he said.

"When we got behind we completely lost our composure - and there is no doubt, we do struggle for fire power up front."

Fiorese said he believed his side had limited Olympic to one reasonable scoring chance - "and that was in the first half".

Belconnen will now have a second chance of upsetting points-table winner Gungahlin Juventus in this week's grand final, a result which will give the club the lift it needs as it immediately begins preparations for its debut in the NSW Summer League.

In other divisions on Sunday the University of Canberra beat Canberra Deakin 2-1 in the under 23s. Deakin gained some consolation with a 2-0 win against Weston Creek Royals at youth level.

TREASON

Continued from front page

It's understood that Jacob Burns flew back into Australia late last week but will now fly back out to England to join his new club, Leeds United.

One player, (domestically based), withdrew himself from selection, as he wanted to concentrate on the coming NSL season.

Chris Coyne who has joined Dundee from West Ham, was another to declare his unavailability for the Olympics, stating he wanted to concentrate on his career in Scotland.

What a vast contrast in patriotic attitude to say, Italy, who just happen to also be the current European Champions. Italy has deliberately delayed the kick off to its Serie A League, purely to maximise that country's chances of Gold at the Sydney Olympics.

Over the past three years or so, Australia has made a huge investment on the Olympic players, calling them in to numerous training camps, travelling the world playing friendlies etc.

Now in Australia's hour of need, and with the Olympics pressure piling in, certain players seem to feel that it's okay to pull out.

Is this some sort of treason?

Isn't it correct to automatically assume that any player should have the strong desire and unquestionable passion to play for Australia?

As Blanco summed up last night from Melbourne:

"It's very sad, especially with these Olympics being right here at home.

"It's tragic when the time is here now and their (some players) answer to Australia's call is disappointing.

"I assumed they would be there," ended Blanco.

MELBOURNE TRAINING CAMP

Last Sunday, five of the Olympic squad players have already reported into the training camp set up at Melbourne's Hilton On The Park.

Most surprisingly, and certainly most pleasantly encouraging, was the sight of Yugoslav-based striker, the mobile Michael Curcija. Despite already having secured a contract with Partizan Belgrade, Curcija was one of the very first players to report into the Melbourne camp.

The razor-keen Curcija is hungrily lurking, eager to try and steal a striker's shirt from either Mark Viduka or Harry Kewell in the Olympics.

The other four Olympic squad members that reported last Sunday at the Melbourne camp were Simon Colosimo, Kasey Wehrman, Dragi Nastevski and Michael Turnbull.

Blanco yesterday, (Monday), held a double training session at the Xavier Private College grounds and has planned the same for today but just one for tomorrow.

"The people at the Xavier College have been most marvellous to us and most keen to help us out in any way possible.

"The have even lifted out a cricket pitch to enable us to train properly on a good surface," Blanco gratefully acknowledged.

By the end of this week Blanco expects some of the Euro-based players to begin arriving in dribs and drabs.

OLYMPIC SQUAD

Name	Position	Club	Country
BLATSIS Con	Defender	Derby County	England
BRESCIANO Marco	Midfielder	Empoli	Italy
COLOSIMO Simon	Defender	Carlton	Australia
CULINA Jason	Midfielder	AJAX Amsterdam	Holland
CURCIJA Michael	Striker	Partizan Belgrade	Yugoslavia
DIDULICA Joe	Goalkeeper	AJAX Amsterdam	Holland
EMERTON Brett	Midfielder	Feyenoord	Holland
FOXE Hayden	Defender	West Ham United	England
GRELLA Vince	Midfielder	Ternana	Italy
KEWELL Harry	Striker	Leeds United	England
LAYBUTT Stephen	Defender	Feyenoord	Holland
LAZARIDIS Stan	Defender	Birmingham City	England
MILOSEVIC Danny	Goalkeeper	Leeds United	England
NEILL Lucas	Defender	Millwall	England
OKON Paul	Def/Midfielder	Middlesbrough	England
RIZZO Nick	Midfielder	Ternana	Italy
VIDUKA Mark	Striker	Leeds United	England
WEHRMAN Kasey	Midfielder	Perth Glory	Australia
The following players were also announced by Soccer Australia as stand by players:			
BURNS Jacob	Midfielder	Parramatta Power	Australia
NASTEVSKI Dragi	Defender	Melbourne Knights	Australia
TURNBULL Michael	Goalkeeper	Marconi Stallions	Australia
ZANE Clayton	Striker	Molde	Norway

HOW SOCCER CAN WELL LEARN FROM RUGBY LEAGUE

By John Economos

Last Saturday Night, I ventured for the first time in 38 odd years to go out to the Sydney Football Stadium and watch the Rugby League's Preliminary Final between Sydney Roosters and the Newcastle Knights.

What a night!

Not only did I, plus another 34 odd thousand witness a miraculous second half comeback from death by the Roosters, but as a Soccer man, was stunned, if not embarrassed by the manner with which the NRL treats the League media.

Nothing was a problem to the NRL, bending over backwards to please the media.

First was the after-match and relaxed media conference that saw a roll up of no less than 29 pressmen crowd in.

When later I ventured to go into the dressing rooms, no problem.

At the end of the players' tunnel was proudly standing the Roosters' president, automobile magnate par excellence, as well as Sydney Olympic's chairman, Nick Politis.

Dressed in all fashionable black attire but broadly smiling with relief, Politis had waited for this day a very long time.

An entry to a grand final at last. Twenty years of waiting had suddenly ceased.

Brad Fittler: Roosters' captain.

Nick Politis: Roosters Chairman.

Seeing the Roosters' genius skipper 'Freddie' Fittler, with just a towel wrapped around his waist meandering around the dressing rooms answering various people, or the brilliant nuggety Andrew Johns in the Knights' rooms opposite, silently still lamenting the shock-loss, was a rare experience.

So what's all this stuff appearing in a Soccer journal one might ask?

The degree and quality of the Public Relations that is extended willingly to the media by the NRL.

That's what.

For the past six or seven years, our very own Soccer authorities have repeatedly blocked all media personal from entering the players' dressing rooms, especially at the Football Stadium.

Andrew Johns: Knights' mercurial halfback.

Why?

Security has always been the standard answer.

Security from what?

Terrorists?

Why then isn't the NRL so vexed by this 'security thing'?

Or is it that it's just because of some stupid and small thinking, power-hungry Soccer officials flexing their authorative Saturday or Sunday muscles?

Rugby League actually encourages the media to mix with its players.

Why then doesn't Soccer?

Is it because Soccer already has saturation levels of publicity in the press and can't handle it anymore?

Soccer Australia, pleeeeeeeeeease take note.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES SPORTS CLUB LTD

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

Conducting trials for the Under 19 players for the Summer competition.

The trials will be conducted at

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Begonia Ave, Cabramatta,

On the following dates:

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September 2000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Club's Secretary

Jack Cirjanic

☎ (02) 9823 7714

Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club Inc.

Trials for Cadets, Youth League, & (Under 19s & 1st Grade by invitation only)

Cadets

Venue: Algie Park, Ramsay Street, Haberfield.

Under 11		Under 12	
Saturday 30th September	1.00pm	Sunday 1st October	3.00pm
Saturday 7th October	1.00pm	Sunday 8th October	3.00pm
Saturday 14th October	1.00pm	Sunday 15th October	3.00pm
Saturday 21st October	1.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	3.00pm

Youth League

Venue: Algie Park, Ramsay Street, Haberfield.

Under 13			
Monday 25th September	6.00pm	Saturday 30th September	9.00am
Monday 2nd October	6.00pm	Saturday 7th October	9.00am
Monday 9th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	9.00am
Monday 16th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	9.00pm
Under 14			
Tuesday 26th September	6.00pm	Saturday 30th September	11.00am
Tuesday 3rd October	6.00pm	Saturday 7th October	11.00am
Tuesday 10th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	11.00am
Tuesday 17th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	11.00am
Under 15			
Thursday 28th September	6.00pm	Sunday 1st October	9.00am
Thursday 5th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	9.00am
Thursday 12th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	9.00pm
Thursday 19th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	9.00am
Under 17			
Friday 29th September	6.00pm	Sunday 1st October	11.00am
Friday 6th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	11.00am
Friday 13th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	11.00am
Friday 20th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	11.00am

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Bookings are essential so please call 9558 5355 9am-5pm Monday to Friday to book your place.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

ZELJKO SUSA, was signed last week by South Melbourne.

The former Melbourne Knights' midfielder was offered a two year contract by Souths' new coach Mickey Petersen.

Zeljko Susa: Signed on two year contract by Souths last week.

●●●●

SIMON COLOSIMO, the Australian Olympic Games' goalscoring central or wide defender, could soon be seen playing in England for manager Bryan Robson.

But certainly not till after the Olympics 2000 have ended at the end of next month.

The English Premier League side Middlesbrough, has already offered Carlton a massive Australian record-breaking transfer fee of $2.4 million.

Carlton however is understood to be just 'considering the offer' at this stage.

This healthy fee now being offered by Middlesbrough, easily pole vaults the recently set new Australian record transfer.

Italian aristocrats of the Serie A, Juventus, paid the Perth Glory $1.6 million for the acquisition of 22-year-old Australian attacking midfielder, Ivan Ergic.

By John Economos

Simon Colosimo: Set to establish an Australian record transfer.

●●●●

SPEAKING OF JUVENTUS, the giant Italian side last week signed its third Australian player over the past four years.

To date, Juventus had previously signed the towering cricket-loving striker, Christian Vieri, before their more recent signing of Ergic.

Christian Vieri: Younger brother Massimo now at Juventus.

Last week Juventus forked out $1.4 million to snap up Christian's younger brother, Massimo Vieri.

●●●●

EDDIE TOSORO, was late last week installed as the Wollongong Wolves' Youth team coach.

During his playing days Tosoro played overseas professionally as well as in the NSL where he was coached by the current Australian Olympic coach, Raul Blanco. Tosoro is no stranger to Wollongong having previously coached the Wolves' Under 16s.

●●●●

THE 2000 UEFA SUPER CUP will be brought in Live by SBS TV this Saturday morning, direct from the Stade Louis II, Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The SBS Live telecast will bounce into Australia at 4.30 am this Saturday (a.e.s.t.), 4.00 am (South Australia and Darwin), and at 2.30 am in Perth.

Only Perth will get a replay of this telecast which will be screened by SBS the same morning at 4.45 am.

Les Murray, SBS's Head Of Sport, stated to us:

"The UEFA Super Cup, an annual showpiece between the winners of the European Champions League versus the winners of the UEFA Cup.

"This year we will see Turkish side Galatasaray battle it out with Spanish giants Real Madrid.

"This particular Cup was first played in 1973 where Dutch powerhouse Ajax of Amsterdam defeated the Italians of AC Milan," stated Murray.

The Network's polished presenter went on to add:

"This is a Live and exclusive broadcast being done only by SBS on free-to-air in Australia," stressed Murray.

Galatasaray last season made Soccer history with their victory in the UEFA Cup Final over London greats, Arsenal.

Galatasaray boasts the scoring talents of newly signed Brazilian goal-ace, Mario Jardel.

The former F.C. Porto marksman has taken out Europe's coveted 'Golden Boot' in recent years.

Real Madrid, minus their departed genius Argentinian midfielder Fernando Redondo and goal-ace Nicolas Anelka, have signed the world's most costly striker, the $96 million man, Portugal's 27-year-old international marksman, Luis Figo.

Only a highlight package will be replayed this Saturday afternoon on SBS' World Soccer at 4.30 pm.

As Murray advises: "Don't miss it."

●●●●

AN AUSTRALIAN Company, soon to be listed on the London Stock Exchange through a 'back-door listing', possesses a super new technology that already has the England F.A. a little more than excited.

The technology in question, will be of a huge assistance for crowd security at all major sporting venues.

The still little known of technology, involves the almost instant scanning of large numbers of human skulls, tailor-made for situations such as at Soccer Stadia.

The technology has the incredible capacity that it can scan, and process, no less than 1,500 human skulls per minute.

As one should know, (and we all certainly don't, till now that is), like finger prints, no two human skulls can possibly be identical.

For example, space between eye sockets, space either side of the nose, shape of front and, or back, of skull out-lines, levels of ears, jaw structures, cross-measurements around the skull, etc, etc.etc.

Once the individual initial images have been recorded and stored on a data base, these skull images can instantly be recalled and cross-checked with further crowd scanning done at a later time.

It's swift science at work with the capacity to target and detect criminal elements in amongst huge crowds.

●●●●

MARCONI's NSL team has much to do for the coming season if they wish to emulate anything like the Club's Women's teams.

Both of Marconi's Women's sides, (First Grade and Under 21s) not only recently won their respective League Championships, but also went on to cement their 'magic doubles' by winning their respective Grand Finals.

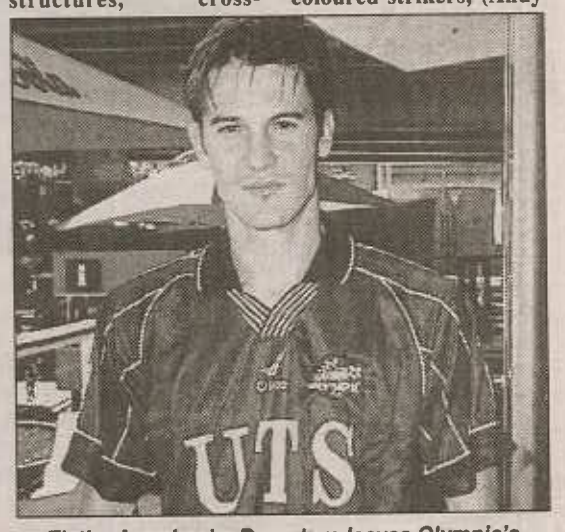
Last Friday night at Club Marconi, the Marconi Womens' teams celebrated in grand style at their Awards Night.

Midfielder Lisa Colwas voted the 'Club Player Of the Year'.

(Full report see Page 6).

●●●●

SYDNEY OLYMPIC could be out this coming season to emulate the great Manchester United who have two coloured strikers, (Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke) in their attack.



Zlatko Arambasic: Departure leaves Olympic's attack depleted.

Olympic right now have one coloured striker trialing with the NSL squad during pre-season training.

Another coloured striker, a French Tahitian, is also expected to come to Sydney for trials with Olympic.

Olympic is now desperate for strikers following the departure to Greece of ace-goalscorer Pablo Cardozo and Zlatko Arambasic being released by the Club.

●●●●

Luis Figo: In action Live on SBS this Saturday morning.

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

Invites suitable applications with minimum Intermediate Level Certificate for the 2001 season for the following coaching positions:

Youth League — Division 1

U13's, U14's, U15's and U16's

Cadet League — Division 1

U11's and U12's

Note: Assistant coaches may also apply.

All applications should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
Ryde City Soccer Club
PO Box 391,
North Ryde NSW 1670
Or Fax 9887 1324

Trials for Cadet and Youth League to be held on:

Sunday 8th, 15th, 22nd October, 2000

For further information contact Youth Director Warwick Andrews. Phone: 9899 4044 (after hours)

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS SOCCER CLUB

NSW SUPER LEAGUE 2001

COACHES WANTED!

1st Grade, Under 21s, Under 18s
Youth League U13s to U16s
Cadet League U11s and U12s

Must have Level 2 Coaching Certificate

Applications in writing to
PO Box 95, Rockdale 2216

Contact the Club Secretary
Mendo Cklamovski on 0419 287 907
Closing Date: 8 September 2000

CAMDEN TIGERS SOCCER CLUB

Invites Coaching Applications — *For The 2001 Season*

STATE LEAGUE

U/18's, U/21's, 1st Grade — Youth League
U/13's, U/14's U/15's, U/16s — Cadet League
U/11's, U/12's

GOALKEEPING COACH

Minimum Requirements intermediate Level Certificate
Applications Close Friday 8th September 2000
Applications in Writing to:
The Secretary
PO Box 600
Camden NSW 2750

Further Enquiries to Manager Representative Teams
Fred Mackechnie 02 465 67 658 or 0414 678 186

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

By John Economos

SPEAKING OF PABLO CARDOZO, the former Sydney Olympic top goalscorer made his debut for his new club Athinaikos in the Greek First Division early yesterday morning (Monday).

Cardozo's debut impressed when he came on during the second half in a Greek Cup match against Pierikos.

Almost immediately Cardozo won a penalty for his new team.

Although Cardozo was not entrusted with taking the penalty, a team-mate that did take it scored from the spot.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

However, Cardozo's future in Greece is temporarily in doubt as he is blocked from playing in the Greek League championship until his former club Sydney Olympic is paid a compensation fee by Athinaikos, reported to be around the $300,000 mark.

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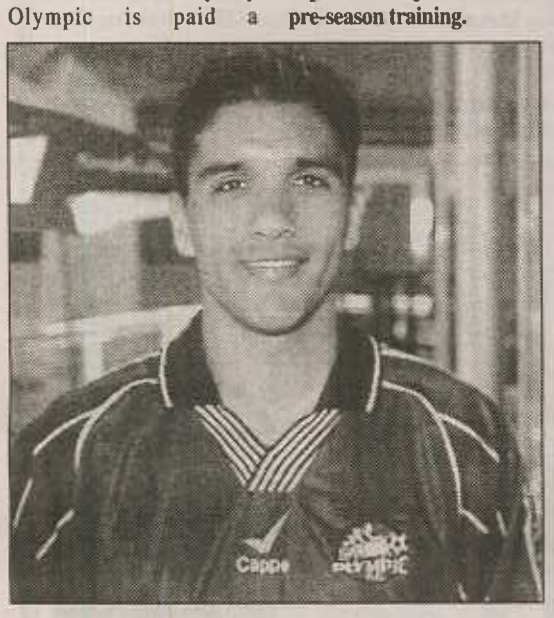


Pablo Cardozo: Wins penalty in debut match.

GORDON DURIE, the former Scottish international midfielder, currently still on Glasgow Rangers' pay-roll, is definitely coming to Sydney to play with the Rangers' 'investment Club', the Northern Spirit.

The former quality Chelsea midfielder and industrious Scottish World Cup player, is stated to be more than keen to wind down his career in Australia.

The Spirit's coach Graham Arnold, stated to 'Good Oil':

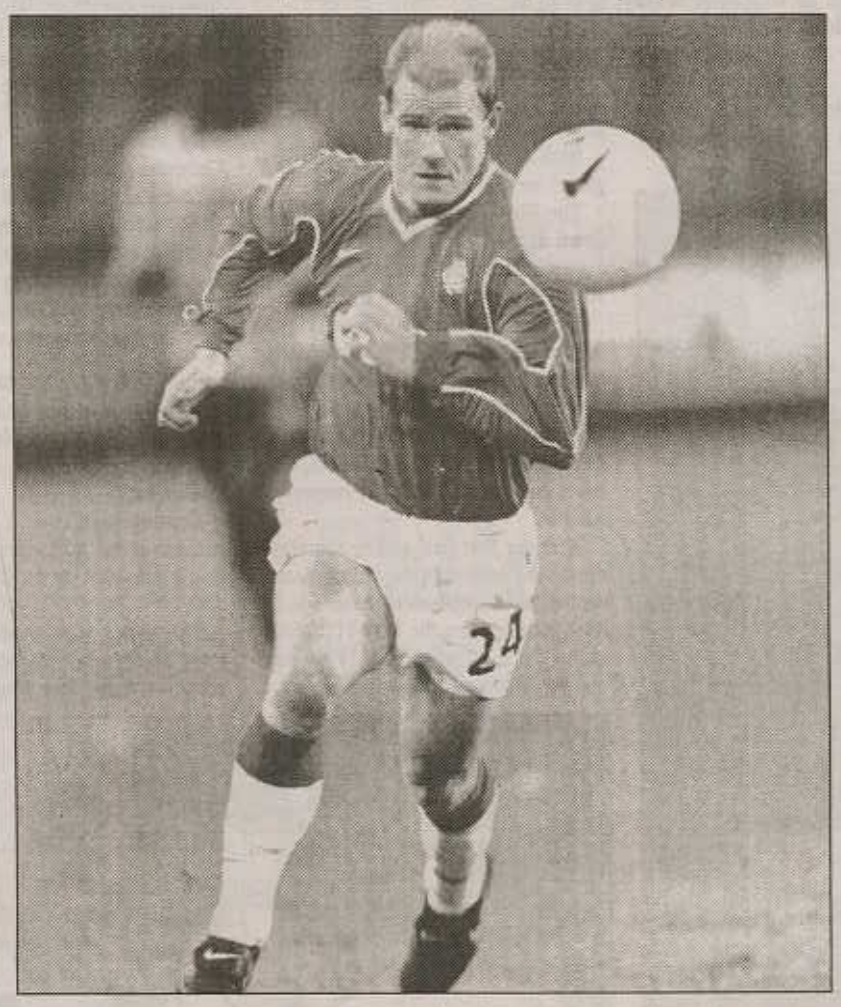
"Gordon is a certainty to come out here and play for us.

"He's not coming for just a few weeks, but wants to play a whole season with us.

"I'm expecting him to arrive sometime in September to join in on our pre-season training.

"I'm also told that Danish international striker Michael Laudrup is an 80percent chance at this stage of also coming out to Australia.

"In these two guys we are really talking about quality players and I'm more than looking forward to both of them joining us at the Spirit," ended Arnold.



Gordon Durie: Scottish international keen to play for the Spirit.

●●●●

CAN WE REMEMBER? AUSTRALIA's last Olympic team, (Atlanta 96), skippered by defender Kevin Muscat, in sweltering heat lost to France 2-0 then narrowly went down to Spain by 3-2.

Both goals against Spain were scored by midfielder Aurelio Vidmar.

The last match against Saudi Arabia resulted in a 2-1 win to Australia.

Australia's goals came from midfielder Peter Tsekenis and ace-marksman, Mark Viduka.

●●●●

GUESS which Soccer identities were spotted last Saturday night at Sydney's Football Stadium in the crowd of almost 34,000 to watch the electrifying Rugby League Preliminary Final between the Sydney Roosters and the Newcastle Knights?

Mark Viduka: Scored against Saudi Arabia in Atlanta '96.

Well the Northern Spirit's Head coach Graham Arnold was spotted walking around the Members' Lounge all dolled up in his familiar brown suit.

Australia's Olympic Games coach Raul Blanco was also in attendance with his entire family.

'Good Oil's' columnist was also at the match, being his first Rugby League game attended after a break of some 38 years.

Arnold, an avid fan of Andrew Johns, was strongly pushing for the Knights to win, whilst Blanco for years a huge admirer of 'Freddie' Fittler, was rooting for the Roosters.

Meanwhile 'Good Oil', highly impressed by the very humble and meticulous Graham Murray, sided with the Sydney team and its extremely patient and long-suffering, (20 years), supporters.

Graham Arnold: Spotted by 'Good Oil' at the Rugby League last Saturday night.

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club

NSW Soccer Federation
Super League

COACHES WANTED

Cadet League U/11 & U/12
Youth League U/13 & U/17

Must have Level 2 ticket and relevant experience

Applicantions in writing giving details of experience and recent achievements, Closing Date 3 September 2000

Contact:
Emmanuel Kanna on 9609 7205

Youth Coordinator
PO Box 400, BONNYRIGG 2177

A.C. UNITED SOCCER CLUB

invites applications for the 2000 season
FOR THE FOLLOWING COACHING POSITIONS

State League Division 1
(Super League Pending)
U18's, U21's and 1st Grade

Trials Dates State League
U18's 12pm, U21's 2pm, 1st Grade 4pm
Sunday, October 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2000

Youth League Division 1
U13's, U14's, U15's and U16's
Trial Dates Youth League
U13's 9.30am, U14's 11.30am, U15's 1.30pm and U16's 3.30pm
Saturday, October 7th, 14th, and 21st, 2000

Cadet League Division 2
U11's and U12's
Trials Dates Cadet League
U11's 9am, U12's 10.30am
Sunday, October 15th, and 22nd, 2000

Applications to be sent to Mr John Palmano
PO Box 7044, WETHERILL PARK NSW 2164
Or for further Enquiries contact:
Frank Falcone 0411381969 or John Palmano 0412921131

Minimum requirements – Intermediate Level Certificate
Applications close September 1, 2000

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic Soccer Football Club Limited
ACN 050 214 554

SOCCER TRIALS

Super Cadets (U11s & U12s)
Super Youth (U13s to U17s)
U/19s & 1st Grade

Sunday 13th, 20th, 27th August 2000
Sunday 3rd, 10th September 2000
Mahoney Park, Marrickville
(9.00am-12.00pm)

For further details: Laki Konistis
(Club Administrator)
04111.91815

MARCONI — Soccer Trials
SUPER CADET LEAGUE & SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ALL TRIALS WILL BE HELD AT CLUB MARCONI
MARCONI PLAZA, BOSSLEY PARK

U/11 & U/12 Super Cadet League

Saturday, 2 September, 2000
U/11: 9.00am — 10.30am U/12: 10.45am — 11.30am
Sunday, 3 September, 2000
U/11: 9.30am — 11.00am U/12: 11.15am — 12.30am
Wednesday, 6 September, 2000
U/11 & U/12: 6.30pm — 8.00pm

Under 13 — Under 17 Super Youth League

Saturday, 7 October, 2000
U/13: 9.00am — 12.00pm U/14: 3.30pm — 5.00pm
Sunday, 8 October, 2000
U/15: 9.30am — 12.00pm U/17: 3.30pm — 5.00pm
Tuesday, 10 October, 2000
U/13 & U/14: 6.00pm start
Thursday, 12 October, 2000
U/15 & U/17: 6.00pm start
Thursday, 17 October, 2000
U/13 & U/14: 6.00pm start
U.15 & U/17: 7.30pm start

** PLEASE RING OWN WATER BOTTLES & SHIN PADS **

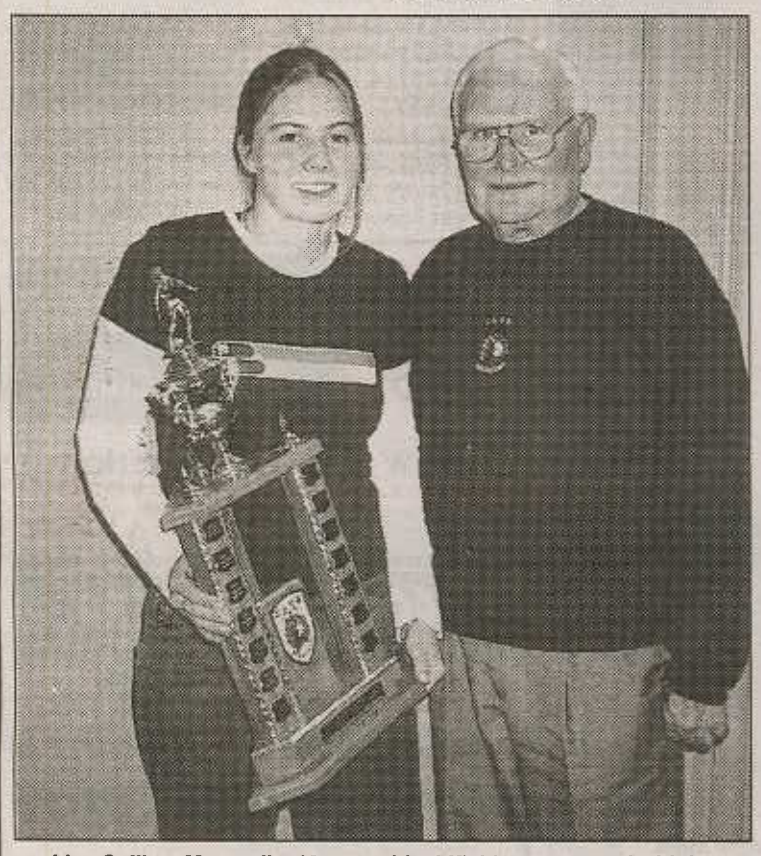
MARCONI WOMEN'S SUPER SEASON

*Both Grades League Champions. *Both Grades Grand Final Winners. *Waratah Shield Winners

By John Sevil & John Economos

Marconi's two crack Women's Championship League winning teams last Friday night staged their annual Awards Dinner at Club Marconi, with ever so much to celebrate.

The Marconi girls all conquering two teams had ended on yet another winning note as they totally cleaned up this season whilst competing in the NSW Women's Super League competition.



Lisa Collins, Marconi's 19-year-old midfielder, presented with her coveted 'The George Streeter Trophy', by the very Man himself, Mr George Streeter last Friday night.

Marconi's Women's U/21s, as well as the First Grade team, not only won their respective League Championship, but both topped it all off in magnificent style by winning their Grand Finals as a bonus.

Kylie Ledbrook, a midfielder, at the astonishing age of just 14 years, last Friday night took out the **First Grade's 'Players' Player Of the Year'** trophy whilst 19-year-old midfielder **Lisa Collins,** scored **'The George Streeter Trophy'**, having been voted **'The Club Player Of The Year'**.

The First Grade **'Player Of The Year'** award was taken out by **Tracey Oldham** whilst the **'Rookie Of the Year'** trophy was won by young striker **Celeste Fihlebon.**

The **'Under 21s Player Of the Year'** trophy was scored by midfielder **Sonja Majkovska,** whilst the **'Under 21s Players' Player Award'** was won by **Kelly Sevil.**

Melissa Link received a special award for having played **100 games** for Marconi's Women's team.

The **'Top Goalscorer's'** award was scored by another 14-year-old, **Catherine Cannuli** who nailed in an incredible **31 goals** during the season.

U/21 Grade

The Under 21s side, studiously coached by former Australian international striker, Leigh Wardell, finished seven points clear of their rivals to take the Premiership in convincing style, scoring a massive 67 goals whilst conceding a miserly four against all season.

First Grade

The senior team, although having started off slowly, steamed home with a winning streak to take the Premiership by four points from their nearest rival. With both Premierships secured, focus now switched to the semi-finals and Grand Final battles.

In both semi-finals, both Marconi teams were behind at the break. Both teams showed true grit to overcome deficits and win their semis.

Both Grand Finals, (U/21s and First grade), were of the highest quality.

The First Grade came from a goal down against the NSWITC to win in extra time with a 'Golden Goal' in the 109th minute to decide the winner.

Play during the first half moved freely from end to end with both teams having opportunities only to be stopped by the two best goalkeepers in the WSL, Marconi's Natascia Cavarretta and Cassandra Kell from NSWITC, who were superb between their respective uprights.

With the first half ending scoreless, the second session began with the same urgency as the first and it changed in the 73rd minute when the NSWITC attack found the back of the net. This goal spurred Marconi to step up the pressure.

In the 84th minute Marconi was awarded a free kick quickly taken by Joanne Peters. Peters fired the ball out to 14-year-old Kylie Ledbrook whose bullet header crashed into the target for 1-1.

Marconi's quick reply shocked the opposition who were fortunate to survive till fulltime. The first period of extra time saw caution by both sides, but the second period didn't last long.

Nicole Kimber took just four minutes to make a run down the left flank and blast a shot that goalie Cass Kell could only parry. The ball rebounded to Catherine Cannuli who slammed it into the back of the net to nail in the 'Golden Goal' that sealed the competition win.

Diligent First Grade coach Geoff Stanmore, captain Alicia Cavanagh and the entire team must be congratulated on their all-conquering season.

The U/21 team

This team, coached by Leigh Wardell, made it a magnificent "double", defeating Wollongong Wolves in their earlier Grand Final.

Coming back from a 1-0 deficit to equalise in the 89th minute, Marconi's young guns took the match 5-4 on penalties.

This young team were the League's front runners and the best in U/21 all year, thoroughly deserving their win.

With the Grand Finals out of the way, the Final of the NSW Waratah Shield ended as a replay of the Grand Final with Marconi to face yet again, the NSWITC.

Whilst the Shield Final was close, the outcome was the same.

The NSWITC had a golden opportunity to take the lead in the first half when awarded a penalty as an ITC player 'fell' inside the penalty area. An extremely questionable decision, but little damage was done via an excellent save by 'keeper Natascia Cavarretta to keep a clean score sheet.

Marconi's 'game breaker' crystallised after a sustained attack of wave after wave of pressure which yielded dividends when Alicia Cavanagh rounded the ITC's keeper to side-foot the winning goal into the target to give the Marconi girls yet another trophy to add to their crowded 2000 silverware cabinet.

Team managers for the season were John Sevil and George Streeter.

Marconi's Magnificent Seven award winners flanked from the back by coaches, Leigh Wardell on the left, and Geoff Stanmore.

Kewell extends Leeds contract to 2004

Australian striker Harry Kewell, last season's Young Player of the Year in the Premier League, has extended his contract with Leeds United until 2004.

"This proves Harry's committed to Leeds and I'm absolutely delighted. I'm thrilled that such an exceptional talent is staying at Elland Road," Leeds' chairman Peter Risdale was quoted as saying on the club's official Web site.

Financial details of the new contract were unavailable.

Speculation that Kewell, 21, would be playing for a major European club this season were dismissed by the Australian.

Harry Kewell

Commenting on his new deal, Kewell told the Web site: "It was never in doubt. I love Leeds, love playing for Leeds and love the fans so it was a big boost for me when the club approached me."

Currently sidelined with an Achilles tendon injury, Kewell believes that Leeds' moment has come.

"Manchester United are still the benchmark," he said.

"Many people quite rightly say they are the best team, but I think we can do something this season and I think we need to win a trophy to spur us on a bit more."

Lille interested in Sterjovski

French First Division leaders Lille are interested in signing Australian striker Mile Sterjovski, who was on trial with them last week.

"He is a very interesting player," coach Vahid Halilhodzic said of the 21-year-old Parramatta Power striker.

"He is fast and has very good technique, but he is probably not ready for the first division right now."

Another Australian, 22-year-old former Marconi midfielder Yane Talcevski, is on trial with French Second Division Cannes.

Mile Sterjovski: Possible move to France.

The Olympic Quest begins ...

The Olyroos are yet to win a prize at "the Games", although they have gone close in recent times. Melbourne editor Bert van Bedaf delved into the archives to discover some great names of the past, linked with the medal quest.

When Australia's 1956 Olyroos striker Ted Smith strode through the grand ballroom of Melbourne's Hilton hotel during Victoria's Gold Medal award night last August 10, he merged past and present achievements with a single symbolic gesture.

To rapturous applause from the gathered throng, Smith held the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and 2000 Sydney Olympics torches aloft in a symbolic signal of continuity.

The quest for an Olympic medal would again be fought on home soil and the hopes and dreams of the nation rested with a new crop of talent, hardened in modern combat.

The audience stood to a man and the odd woman, brave enough to endure these quaint male rituals. The black-tie crowd included Socceroos coach Frank Farina, youth coach Ange Postecoglou, Victoria's Sports Minister Justin Madden as well as John Landy, 1956 Olympic hero and Victoria's governor to be.

They honoured Ted Smith, but also the ideal —the Olympic dream that persists in speaking to the imagination of the world. Athletes covet no medal more than an Olympic one and none more when it is won at home.

Playing at Olympic Park more than four decades ago, Australia beat Japan 2-0 but lost to India 4-2 and did not make the semi-finals. But as a result of those Olympic matches soccer (or football) was shown to be more than an "ethnic" sport. It was seen as an Olympic endeavour worthy of more serious attention from now on than as a passing phase.

Today's squad attests to the heights Australian footballers have leapt.

Many are based in England (Con Blatsis, Hayden Foxe, Harry Kewell, Stan Lazaridis, Danny Milosevic, Lucas Neill, Paul Okon, Mark Viduka). Some are in Italy (Marco Bresciano, Vince Grella, Nick Rizzo). Others have joined clubs in Holland (Jason Culina, Joe Didulica, Brett Emerton and Stephen Laybutt). Also from overseas are Michael Curcija (Yugoslavja) and Clayton Zane (Norway), who is on standby.

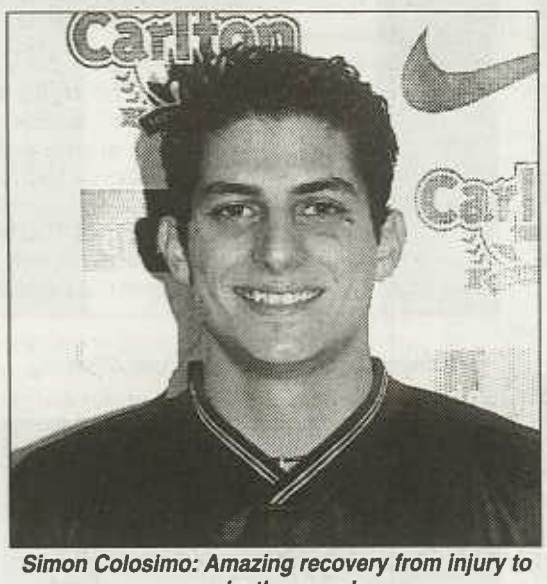
There are few local players in the selection. Simon Colosimo (Carlton), who is likely to join English club Middlesbrough after the Olympics, and Kasey Wehrman (Perth Glory) are the only locally based members.

Also on standby are Jacob Burns (Parramatta Power), Dragi Nastevski (Melbourne Knights) and Michael Turnbull (Marconi Stallions). With an achilles injury threatening Leeds striker Kewell's appearance, Zane might be a late inclusion.

"It's going to be hard. I'm going to be very disappointed if I'm not there. Playing for Australia at the Olympics means a lot to me. I'm very frustrated," Kewell said on the Leeds website.

Significantly, with the exception of Kewell, Neill, Foxe and Rizzo, all others have played in the national league. Blatsis (South Melbourne), Bresciano (Carlton), Colosimo (Carlton), Culina (Sydney Olympic), Curcija (South Melbourne), Didulica (Melbourne Knights), Emerton (Sydney Olympic), Grella (Carlton), Laybutt (Parramatta), Lazaridis (Adelaide Sharks), Milosevic (Perth), Okon (Marconi) and Viduka (Knights) were top players before going overseas.

Colosimo's return to the international stage is a triumph of will and spirit. A severe knee injury, while playing in the Socceroos, forced him into a year of rehabilitation. Being back in the squad has given him an even greater incentive to be part of the first 11 against Italy at the MCG in three weeks' time.



Simon Colosimo: Amazing recovery from injury to make the squad.

"This is just the beginning. I want to be in the first 11 against Italy," an elated Colosimo said.

Perth midfielder Wehrman was also relieved to be included after having to recover from an ankle operation straight after the grand final loss to Wollongong.

"My next goal is to make the starting 11. It's great to make the squad, but I want to play," a determined Wehrman said.

Australian soccer has progressed enormously in the past decade. In 1988, David Mitchell was the only overseas-based player (Feyenoord, Holland) to be in the Olympic squad.

But others, who went on to greater things later and were part of the squad included Jeff Olver, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino, Paul Wade, Graham Arnold, John Kosmina, Robbie Slater and Frank Farina.

In 1988, Seoul, Australia beat Yugoslavia, 1-0, with the winning goal by Farina. The Olyroos lost to Brazil, 3-0, and beat Nigeria 1-0, with Kosmina scoring, to finish equal fifth out of 16 teams.

By 1992, in Barcelona, the squad had five expatriates, Mark Bosnich (then also at Manchester United), Tony Vidmar (Ekeren, Belgium), Ned Zelic (Borussia Dortmund, Germany), Okon (Bruges, Belgium) and Zlatko Arambasic (Mechelen, Belgium).

Local stars including John Filan (Wollongong), Milan Blagojevic (Marconi), Gary Hasler (South Melbourne), Dominic Longo (Newcastle), Damian Mori (then Knights) and Carl Veart (Adelaide City).

The Olyroos lost their opening match 3-1 to Ghana. Vidmar scored in the last minute. They drew 1-1 with Mexico, after Arambasic had given Australia the lead, and comprehensively beat Denmark, 3-0, to advance to the quarter-final. John Markovski, Mori and Vidmar scored.

In its best Olympic performance to date, the Olyroos got past Sweden, 2-1, to secure a semi-final berth. Markovski and Shaun Murphy struck the winners.

But the wheels fell off against Poland. The Olyroos went down 6-1.

Murphy scored an own goal. Veart saved Australia's honour and the side finished in fourth place, just one win outside a medal.

Atlanta, 1996, proved a disaster. Finishing third in their group, the Olyroos made a quick exit from the extreme heat. They lost 2-0 to France and 3-2 to Spain, beating Saudi Arabia 2-1. The Australian scorers were Aurelio Vidmar twice (Spain), and Peter Tsekenis and Viduka (Saudi).

The squad looked good on paper. It had six overseas players, Steve Horvat (Hajduk Split, Croatia), Steve Corica (Wolverhampton, England),

Viduka (then at Dinamo Zagreb), Vidmar (on loan to Tenerife, Spain, from Feyenoord), Foxe (Ajax Amsterdam) and Paul Agostino (Bristol City, England).

There was plenty of local talent present, Frank Juric (Knights), Goran Lozanovski (then at Adelaide City), Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne), Danny Tiatto (Knights), Joe Spiteri (Knights), Robbie Enes (Sydney United) and Ross Aloisi (Adelaide Sharks).

Some of the local players who have just missed out this time are Archie Thompson (Carlton) and Zeljko Susa (South Melbourne, formly with the Knights).

Olyroos coach Raul Blanco believes his team is a medal prospect, despite having drawn a tough group against Italy (champion of Europe), Nigeria (Olympic title holder) and Honduras (champion of Central America).

The side has Viduka, Okon and Lazaridis as its three over-age players. Brett Emerton retains the captaincy over Socceroos captain Okon. A handful of Olyroos, together with Blanco, arrived in Melbourne to set up camp for the opening match against Italy on September 13.

The Oyroos group schedule is September 13 vs Italy, Melbourne MCG. September 16 vs Nigeria, Sydney Football stadium. September 19 vs Honduras, Sydney.

May the force be with them.

HILLS UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

Cadet/Youth League Trials

Hills United is looking for quality players and is giving you the opportunity to join us at our trials for places in Year 2001 ...

CADET LEAGUE

Under 11 – Monday 2, Wednesday 4 and Friday 6 October 2000
Under 12 – Tuesday 3, Thursday 5 and Friday 6 October 2000

YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 13 – Monday 9, Wednesday 11 and Friday 13 October 2000
Under 14 – Tuesday 10, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 October 2000
Under 15 – Tuesday 10, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 October 2000
Under 16 – Tuesday 3, Thursday 5 and Friday 6 October 2000

Enquiries:
Louis Fayd'herbe – Cadet/Youth League Coordinator On 0402 077 073
Venue:
Fred Caterson Reserve – Gilbert Road – Castle Hill Oval No.2

START TIME: 7.00PM SHARP

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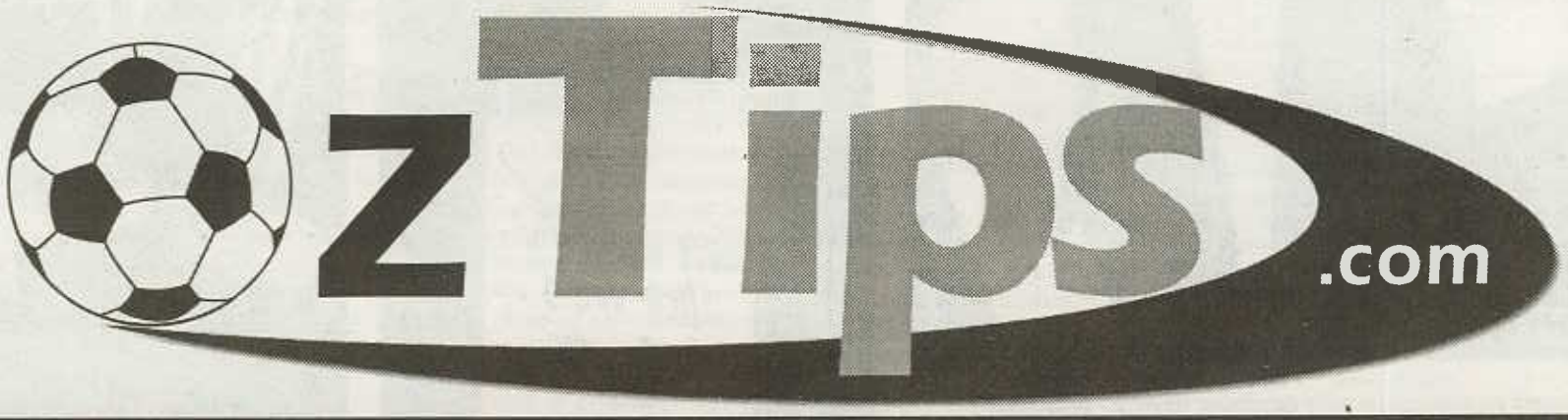

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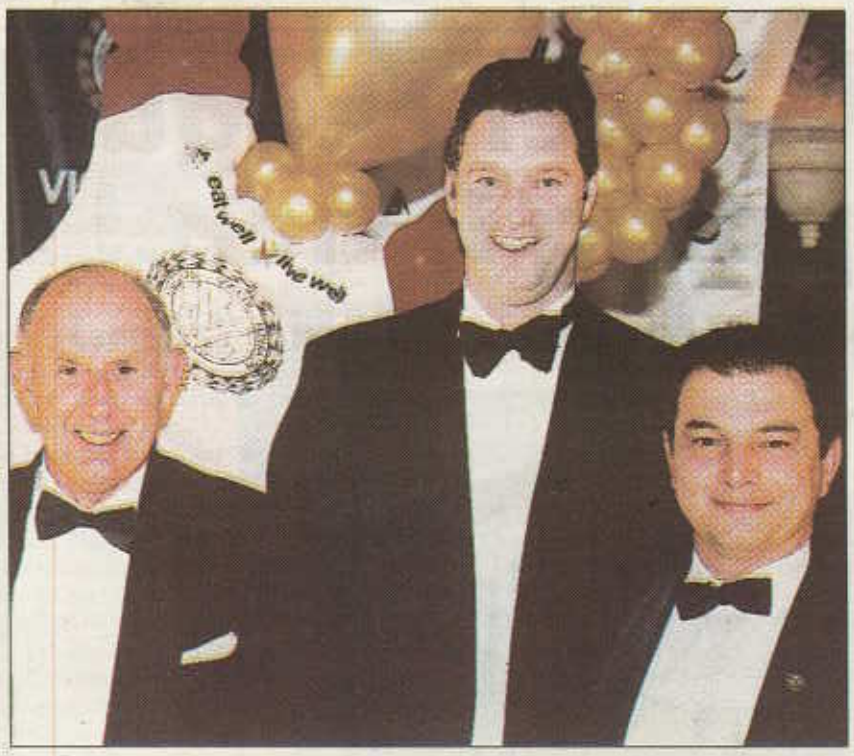
VSF AWARDS NIGHT 2000

The 2000 Covo Select team with national coahc Frank Farina.

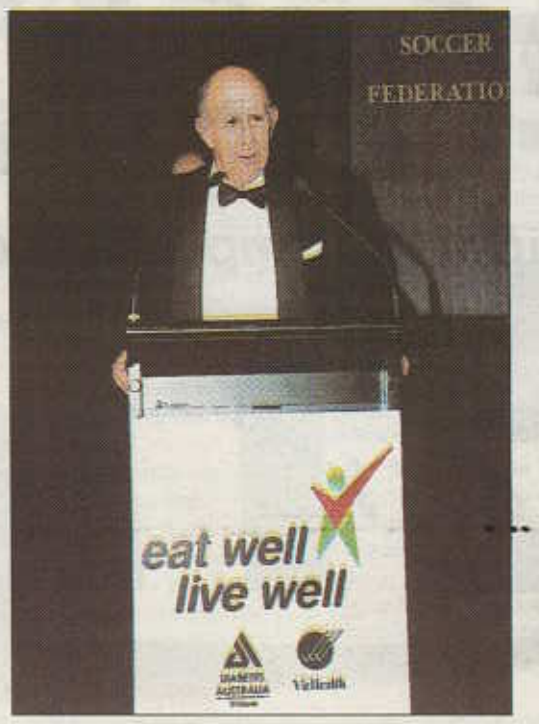
Admiral Coach of the Year: Peter Ollerton.

Weinstein Medal winner Frank Lagana (left) with his proud parents.

Golden Boot Danny Gnjidic of Bulleen receives his award.



1956 Olympic captain and recently appointed Governor of Victoria John Landy (left), Minister for Sport and Recreation Justin Madden (centre) and VSF Chairman Manny Galanos (right).



Guest speaker John Landy.

Referee of the Year: Senko Rastocic and his wife.

By Bert van Bedaf

St Albans Saints Damian Vojtek could not believe he'd won Victorian best player award, the Gold Medal, recently at the Hilton Hotel Gala Presentation.

He didn't even win the club award. That went to Kon Sianidis.

"I'm humbled and honoured," Vojtek said. "It's an award my father has never won. It's something up on him," he said.

Billy Vojtek is a soccer legend and someone to live up to. There's a soccer reserve named after him. A former Socceroo, Billy Vojtek is a towering figure at St Albans and the Melbourne Knights.

Vojtek senior won the Bill Fleming medal, chosen by Melbourne's soccer media, in 1975, finishing second in the premier league best and fairest count. He admitted his son had something over him and he was proud of it.

Congratulating Damian over the mobile phone, he said, "I'm rapt, son.

"Thanks dad, I can't believe it," Damian said. "I love you son," a proud Billy said. "I love you too." It was a moving gesture between father and son at a dramatic moment in their lives.

Vojtek, 25 and a former national league player with the Knights, has built a reputation as a skilled and fluent player, not one of the hard men of the game in the mould of someone like Andrew Marth, who was his captain at the Knights.

"Some people say I'm too soft, that's true, and it's hard to change that perception. But the players appreciate what I do on the field and that's what counts," he said. He missed only one match of the 22-round competition, after accumulating four yellow cards.

Vojtek was on the bench when the Knights won their national titles in 1995 and 1996, finding it difficult to secure a spot for himself with top players like Mark Viduka, Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri strutting their devastating stuff towards international careers.

Before Christmas in 1997, he walked away from the Knights and joined the Saints.

"I started to enjoy myself again. Sport is also about having a good time and making friends and winning something," he said.

VSF AWARDS NIGHT 2000

"This is the players' player award and in a different league all together," Vojtek said.

He's not contemplating a return to the national league and hopes to win a Victorian championship, possibly with the Saints, who were runners-up in 1998.

"I don't know yet about next season. I haven't worked out a contract. But I'd like to play in the VPL and win a championship. That would be a good thing," he said.

Vojtek broke the stranglehold of George Jolevski on the award. Jolevski won it three times in a row, first with Altona Magic and twice with the Melbourne Raiders.

He polled 21 votes, two votes ahead of young Stephen Bartol from Altona East. Third place went to Heidelberg's Alfonso Opazo on 17 points. Green Gully defender Zoran Markovski polled 18 votes, but he was ineligible due to a red card suspension.

In other results, Bulleen striker Danny Gnjidic won top scorer with 18 goals as well as the Bill Fleming (media player of the year) award. Senko Restocic was voted referee of the year. Carlo Grasso announced his retirement from refereeing after 19 years.

World Cup 1974 Socceroo and coach of Altona East, Peter Ollerton won coach of the year. He coached the young Phoenix side to third place on the VPL ladder, just behind Bentleigh and Green Gully. In 1994 he won the Victorian title with Preston, but was edged out of the award by his grand final opponent, Port Melbourne coach Takis Svigos.

Champions Green Gully goalkeeper Robert Brian won goalkeeper of the year and Bulleen Joe Damiano was voted U21 player of the year. The Weinstein Medal for best young talent went to Shepparton South and Carlton youth player Frank Lagana.

Members of Victoria's 2000 select team are Robert Brian (Green Gully, Tom Karapatsos (Bentleigh Greens), Steve Douglas (Green Gully), Zoran Markovski (Green Gully), Josip Kozic (Preston), Alfonso Opazo (Heidelberg), Ike Alagiozidis (Oakleigh Cannons), Damian Vojtek (St Albans), Harry Micheil (Bentleigh Greens), Sash Becvinovski (Green Gully) and Danny Gnjidic (Bulleen).

Ted Smith: 1956 Olympic football representative opens the night's proceedings.

Manny Galanos presents John Landy with a signed Socceroo shirt from the 1999 Australia v Brazil match.

Damian Vojtek: The winner holds his prize.

A full house at the Hilton Grand Ballroom.

Player of the Year Damian Vojtek with National Coach Frank Farina, with Justin Madden in the background and Vojtek's St Albans team-mates surrounding them.

What a save!

Breakers future bleak again

Conditions on Breakers new owners too much to bare

By Greg Danvers

The future of the Newcastle Breakers took a turn for the worst last week when Tru Blu head John Palmer walked away from the club after being given conditional approval by Soccer Australia for the club to contest the 2000-2001 NSL season.

Soccer Australia had demanded a bank guarantee of $500,000 from Palmer but this was the stumbling block as negotiations broke down last Friday.

"The latest situation is this that the board of Soccer Australia imposed certain conditions on John Palmer," NSL general manager Mr Stefan Kamasz said.

"John wasn't happy with additional conditions that were imposed on him and effectively he's walked away from Newcastle Breakers.

"The original shares in Newcastle Breakers we're owned by Bill Collins and his syndicate who in turn sold those shares to David Hall and his company Tiebeau.

"Tiebeau owns the shares in Newcastle Breakers with Tiebeau being part of a group called Tru Blu.

"As a result of the additional conditions that were imposed by the board on John Palmer who was the effective owner of Tru Blu after he acquired it from David Hall (in May), Palmer has relinquished any title to Tiebeau and it has reverted back to David Hall and his associates," explained Mr Kamasz on Saturday.

David Hall: Back in charge.

"David Hall, as of last night, is now in control of the Breakers.

"The first thing he has to do is convince us of the club's solvency under his control and the club's ability to meet the current and future debts over the next 12 months.

"In terms of the guarantees that the board placed on John Palmer that would have to be determined by the board but I would expect that the same conditions that applied to John Palmer would at least be the conditions that apply to David Hall and it may be that there are even more conditions imposed on David Hall.

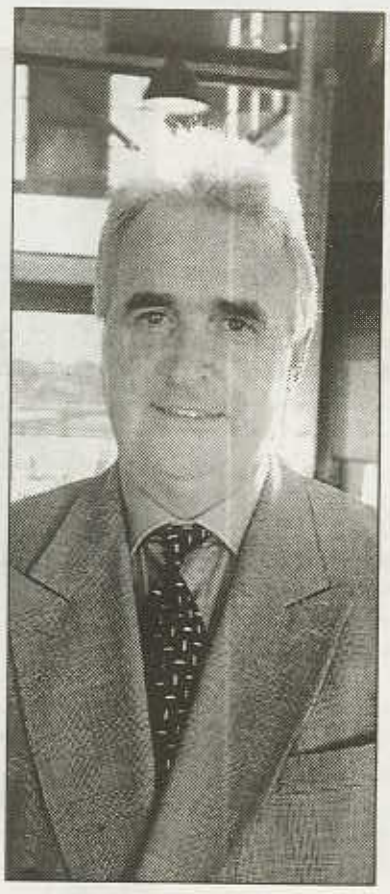
"If the Breakers fell over because of this and there was a vacancy created (in the NSL) then Soccer Australia would consider Northern NSW's contingency plan.

"In fact we will be talking to Northern NSW over the next few days just to find out where they sit in all of this because the Breakers or any new team would be affiliated with them as well.

"This has to be resolved by the middle of next week so as we go into next weekend everything is sorted out.

"There will be a lot of work happening on this on Monday and we've got further meetings with Newcastle, we'll be speaking with the federation and seeing if we can tidy this up as quickly as possible.

"Really now its in the hands of David Hall and his ability to finance the club.



NSL General Manager Stefan Kamasz: Breakdown in negotiations.

"If he can finance it then the club is safe and if he can't generate the necessary funding and provide the guarantees that SA want then that will be a different situation all together," Kamasz went on.

"It is my understanding the payment of those superannuation claims are dependant upon the continuation of the existing entity of the Breakers.

"It is important from a player's perspective that if they are going to receive their full entitlements that the club continues.

"I think everybody wants the existing club to continue and the federation proposal was a contingency in the event that the club falls over but nobody wants to see any creditor just hanging around with money owed to them and ex-shareholders with money owed to them and so the best scenario is for the club to continue," he continued.

"I guess that's why the board was so stringent as it was with the conditions that it placed on Tru Blu, because it wanted to be sure that Tru Blu was in the position to go forward and not have us in the position where there was even more creditors and indeed the shareholders, that were owed $1.2 million, didn't want the liabilities to increase any further.

"It will be an interesting few days," he ended.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PREMIER LEAGUE — GRAND FINAL

SEVENTH HEAVEN FOR HIGH FLYING BLUE EAGLES

By Allan Crisp

Michael Brooks crowned a glorious season by scoring the Golden Goal that earned Blue Eagles a 2-1 Mutual Community Premier League Grand Final win over the gallant Modbury Jets on Friday night.

It was the club's seventh first division title success since 1981 and its fifth since the introduction of the Premier League.

The Olympic Games-ready Hindmarsh Stadium housed 8355 fans who soaked up the thrills and spills of the big event which ended in fictional story book fashion.

"It's the dream of every youngster to score the winning goal with the last kick of a grand final, and I was able to live that dream," Brooks said.

It was fitting that the hard running Brooks, who headed the league's goal scoring list with 28 home and away strikes, should decide the outcome.

It also was pertinent that Frank Sergi, who was second on the leagueís major hit list, should open Blue Eagles account, assisted by the mercurial Brooks.

But, this was no lopsided contest, as forecast by many pundits. First time finalist Modbury was superb in forcing the minor round champion into the nail biting extra-time time period when the Jets created more scoring chances than the Blues.

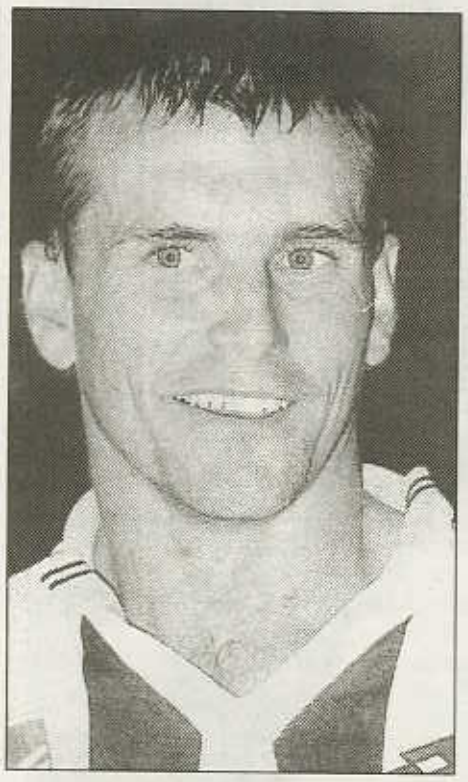
While the dynamic duo, Brooks and Sergi hogged the scoring spotlight for the Eagles, Sergi's former Birkalla colleague, Jason Trimboli netted the deserved leveller for Modbury, seconds before half time.

The weaving Brooks deceived two Modbury defenders before releasing Sergi for the grand final ice-breaker in the 30th minute.

Sergi stalled and looked to have delayed too long, but eventually unwound the shot that beat young Robert Matosevic in the Jets goal.

The Blues successfully kept Trimboli out of shooting range until he again proved that a good man is hard to deny by unleashing a typical swerving piledriver that left Eagles goalkeeper Gino DeLucia fanning thin air.

Ex-West Adelaide Sharks captain Con Kokkinoplitis failed to reappear for the Blues after the interval when the knee injury that had kept him sidelined for five weeks recurred.



Michael Brooks: Golden-goal winner.

The influential Kokkinoplitis was replaced by John Tsalavoutas, who Eagles coach Zoran Karadzic fielded in the midfield with Tony Zito switching to the sweeper spot.

The Blues mounted a feverish search to regain their lead from the start of the second half as young Carlo Castello tested Milosevic with a header, before Alex Hastings Medal winner as Man of The Match, Marcin Kierno had a clever angled drive gloved away by the Jets custodian.

Trimboli missed a glorious chance created by Colin Isaacson before Brooks brought out a flying trapeze save-of-the-game from Milosevic.

Andy Doran and Steve Townley combined to release Mark Yates, but the ace defender muffed the one-on-one opportunity with the keeper.

A wayward back pass by Tony Giannitto was swooped upon by Trimboli, but the Modbury striker blasted wide of the near post.

Modbury continued to press before Brooks roofed his wonderful winner, an effort equalled only by the joyous player celebrations.

Kierno, in his central midfield role, as replacement for suspended Corey Artone, was outstanding with his immaculate distribution.

The lanky son of new Campbelltown City coach Jan Kierno, could inherit the position next season if Artone succeeds in trials with either Carlton and Melbourne Knights.

Statistics show that the Eagles forced 13 corners to the Jets five, while the teams had 13 shots on goal each, but Modbury managed six attempts on target compared to the Blues three.

In the final analysis, the potent strike force of Brooks and Sergi tipped the scales the Blues way.

But, defiant opposition from Yates and fellow defenders, Ryan Donovan, Andy Doran and Isaacson kept Modbury's hopes viable until the last thrilling chapter.

MUTUAL COMMUNITY PREMIER

LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Blue Eagles 2 (Sergi 30m, Brooks (109m) **Modbury Jets 1** (Trimboli 45). **Best** - Blue Eagles: Kierno, Brooks, Sergi, Cutillo, Zito; Modbury: Yates, Donovan, Hassell, Doran, Blefari.

Alex Hastings Medal winner as Man of the Match: Marcin Kierno (Blue Eagles)

Referee: Sam Hasic. **Crowd:** 8355.

FINAL TRIUMPH FOR OLYMPIC

Olympic FC, coached by former Socceroo midfielder Branko Milosevic, downed Port Pirie City 3-1 to win the State League Grand Final at Marden Complex on Saturday.

Milosevic's charges waltzed through the entire season undefeated to earn promotion to the Premier League.

Beaten finalist Port Pirie City also is eligible for promotion, but there is doubt if it will accept the proposal.

MUTUAL COMMUNITY STATE LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL

Olympic FC 3 (Pappas, P. Tsoukalas, Demourtzidis) **Port Pirie City 1** (Waine). **Best** - Olympic FC: Volis, Demoutzidis, Pezos; Port Pirie City: Christopoulos, Waine, Edmonson.

Guilio Bailetti Medal winner as Man of the Match: Jim Volis (Olympic FC).

THE GREEK-AUSTRALIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

is being established by

THE MILLENNIUM HERITAGE COMMITTEE

of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

HONOURING SPORTS CHAMPIONS FROM THE PAST & PRESENT

ANY AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN OF GREEK DESCENT QUALIFIES

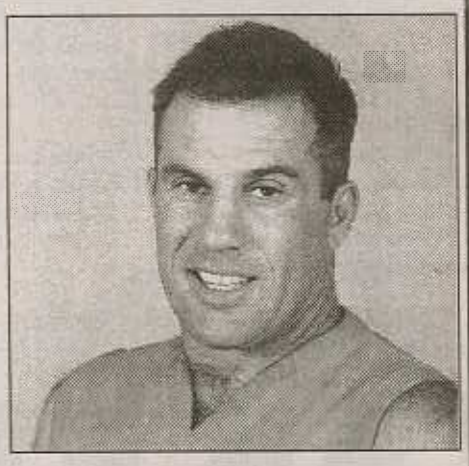
DETAILS BELOW:

29. STEVE MALAXOS

Steve Malaxos captained the West Coast Eagles in the AFL competition.

He was also in the West Australian State team and also made the All-Australian Rules team.

After retiring from playing he spent time as the assistant coach of the Sydney Swans.

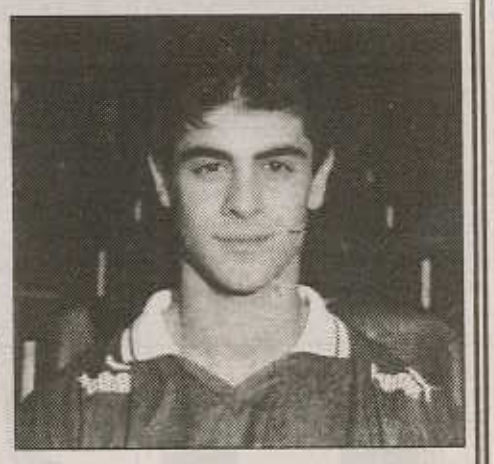


Steve Malaxos

30. BILL DAMIANOS

Bill Damianos has been part of the Australian national team as a Joey (under 17's), Young Socceroo (under 20's) and Olyroo (Olympic team.

He has won a national championship with South Melbourne in 1997/98 and is currently forging a professional career in Greece with Skoda Xanthi FC.



Bill Damianos

31. KOSTA SALAPASIDIS

Kosta Salapasidis

Kosta Salapasidis was part of the Australian under 20's team that went to the World Cup in Malaysia in 1997.

He will be remembered for a remarkable four goals in one game against Argentina in that same tournament.

He has also played for the Olyroos.

32. GEORGE HANIOTIS

George Haniotis

George Haniotis played for Sydney Olympic SC for almost a decade as well as playing professionally in Greece for Apollon Athens in 1990.

He also played for the Socceroos against Fiji.

1. Who has been **selected** for or **played** in a **national** team for either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any sport *(e.g. soccer, rugby league, aussie rules, judo, karate, boxing, wrestling, basketball, tennis, cricket, netball, softball, surfing, chess, badminton, kick-boxing, etc)* or

2. Who has been **selected** for or **represented** either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any games discipline, indoor or outdoor, summer or winter *(e.g. track and field, swimming, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, gymnastics, bowling, skating, skiing, bob-sledding, sailing, diving, cycling, etc)*, or

3. Who has **won** an **Australian** or **Greek** or **any other NATIONAL** sports event, or

4. Who has held a national or international or world **RECORD** in any sports event.

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- Male or Female
- Living or Deceased
- Able or Disabled
- Amateur or Professional
- From All Age Groups

Are you a past or present champion? Do you know of a past or present champion?

THEN CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY WITH DETAILS FOR INCLUSION IN THE HISTORIC PUBLICATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

The proceeds will go to The ProviCare Foundation (saving lives from drugs and alcohol) and to Breast Cancer Research

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providing name, address, contact number (of the sportspeople or their family) and precise details of sports distinctions for each candidate.

Information must be received by 30th July, 2000.

N.B. Achievements must be verifiable!

FOUR MORE ATHLETES PROFILED NEXT WEEK

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

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XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Brisbane City	26	18	4	4	56	17	58
Brisbane Lions	26	15	7	4	54	27	52
Rochedale Rov	26	14	4	8	47	35	46
Gold Coast City	26	13	5	8	45	29	44
IPSW Knights	26	12	1	13	33	35	37
Wynnum	26	10	6	10	37	42	36
T'wmba Raiders	26	6	8	12	26	44	26
B'berg Waves	26	5	9	12	22	36	24
Taringa Rovers	26	5	6	15	23	43	21
Mt Gravatt	26	4	6	16	28	63	18

ROUND 26

Brisbane City	1	B'berg Waves	0
Wynnum	2	Taringa Rovers	1
Gold Coast City	1	IPSW Knights	3
Brisbane Lions	4	T'wmba Raiders	2
Rochedale Rov	4	Mt Gravatt	0

DIVISION ONE - NORTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Uni of Qld	23	16	3	4	65	27	51
North Star	23	14	3	6	65	28	45
Mitchelton	23	14	3	6	55	31	45
Pine Rivers Utd	23	12	6	5	46	28	42
Newmarket	24	8	9	7	42	39	33
The Gap	23	10	2	11	49	43	32
North Pine	23	9	4	10	41	48	31
Albany Creek	23	2	6	15	31	78	12
Grange Thistle	23	0	2	21	11	83	2

ROUND 26

Newmarket	2	North Pine	1
Uni of Qld	2	The Gap	1
Grange Thistle	1	North Star	3
Pine Rivers Utd	0	Mitchelton	0

Albany Creek - Bye

AMATEUR DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Subs	23	16	5	2	75	24	53
Acacia Ridge	23	12	4	7	49	38	40
Souths Utd	23	10	9	4	56	19	39
Rocklea Utd	23	11	5	7	56	35	38
Olympic Utd	23	10	6	7	60	35	36
Capalaba	23	9	5	9	40	46	32
Redlands Utd	23	7	4	12	37	48	25
Slacks Creek	24	6	6	12	35	52	24
Beenleigh	23	1	0	22	21	132	3

ROUND 26

Souths Utd	4	Eastern Subs	1
Redlands Utd	1	Olympic	1
Acacia Ridge	1	Capalaba	0
Rocklea Utd	4	Slacks Creek	1

Beenleigh - Bye

IT'S OURS

Brisbane City clinch title in Wright's first year in charge

By Glenn Davis

A goal from substitute Allan Cameron 15 minutes from time provided Brisbane City with an inevitable Queensland Premier League championship when they downed Bundaberg Waves 1-0 at Spencer Park on Sunday.

Brisbane City, who needed only a draw to snatch the title, arm-wrestled Bundaberg in the first half before coach Danny Wright's telling substitution saw Cameron slot home from close range.

Brisbane City had the champagne on ice last round after it beat Taringa 2-0 but Wright and his team refused to celebrate prematurely while nearest rivals Brisbane Lions still held a mathematical chance of spoiling the party.

For Wright, the premiership in his first season as coach was a worthy reward for a hard season juggling business commitments, a young family and learning the coaching trade.

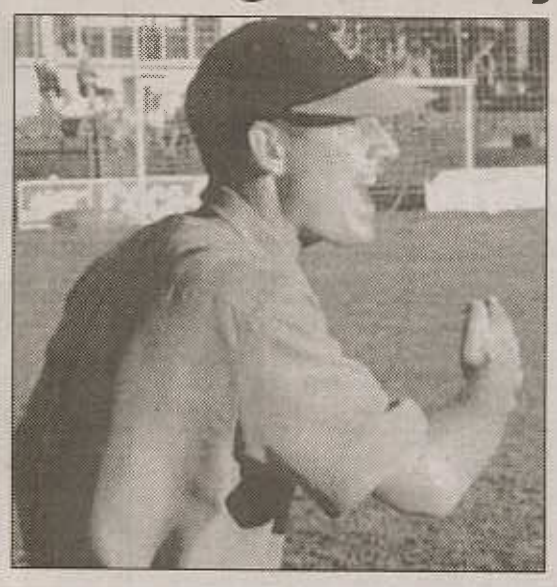
Wright, whose last touch as a player was scoring for Brisbane City against Brisbane Lions in a Queensland Cup final two years ago, will now mull over his future after being approached to coach the club again next season.

"I'm really pleased to win the premiership because they're a terrific bunch of lads," Wright said.

"There's a good balance in this side and I don't think we were really tested, except for two games all year.

"I've already been asked to coach again next year but I'll go back and reassess things as I'll need to make a few adjustments with my work.

"It's a bit awkward with my business in the hospitality industry. It's a big challenge being a family man, a sportsman and a businessman."



Danny Wright: Championship winning coach.

Wright, 35, rated the premiership as one of the highlights of his career which saw him win a premiership, grand final and national league cup in a seven year stint with South Melbourne.

Wright, who started his national league career as a 15-year-old with Brisbane Lions, also spent five years with Brisbane Strikers forming an integral part of their historic national league grand final win over Sydney United at Lang Park three years ago.

Although uncertain of his immediate coaching future, Wright is almost certain to stay at the helm of Brisbane City next season before eventually trying at a higher level.

"I've got a lot of respect for coaching and I've got a lot to learn," Wright said.

"A few years down the track if an approach was made to coach national league I'd love it, but I need a bit more experience yet.

"I know I've made mistakes this year but what I feel good about is that the players really enjoyed the year."

In other games, strikers Royce Brownlie and Des Hughes each netted a double in Brisbane Lions' 4-2 win over Toowoomba, Ipswich Knights shocked Gold Coast 3-1, Rochedale outclassed Mt Gravatt 4-0 while Wynnum came from behind to topple Taringa 2-1.

MISS QUEENSLAND 2000

Michelle Thompson still finds it hard to believe she was crowned Miss Queensland Soccer 2000 at a gala dinner held at the Italo-Australian Centre on Saturday night.

The vivacious Eastern Suburbs Soccer Club entrant was awarded Queensland's soccer's most glamorous prize.

"I'm still on cloud nine," Michelle said.

"I couldn't believe it was my name that was read out."

The 17-year-old retail management TAFE student is the daughter of former Queensland and Easts stalwart Phil Thompson.

She is rapt about getting the chance to represent the Qld Soccer Federation at various functions and cannot wait to use her main prize of a trip overseas.

Peninsula power's entrant Emma Dale, was voted Miss Queensland Soccer runner-up.

The night's final award went to Brisbane City entrant Gianna Rosa, who raised the most money and accordingly won the Miss Fundraising title.

It was a case of second time lucky for Gianna, who was also City's entrant last year.

QSF President Wallace Dann praised the girls and sent a hearty thank you to all the Quest sponsors, especially Guido Canale the principal of Canale Travel who sadly was absent overseas.

Michelle Thompson: Miss Queensland.

ROUND 27 FIXTURES

August 27

Mt Gravatt v B'berg Waves
2.45pm

Toowoomba Utd v Rochedale Rov
2.45pm

IPSW Knights v Brisbane Lions
2.45pm

Taringa Rovers v Gold Coast
2.45pm

Brisbane City v Wynnum
2.45pm

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

CHIEF EAGLE FLIES AWAY

Zoran Karadzic has served Blue Eagles for seven seasons as a player, player-coach and non-playing coach.

Along the way he has collected a championship as a player, three titles as a coach and three Federation Cups.

Karadzic was acclaimed Coach of The Year by his peers in 1995, the central season of the Eagles' stunning Premier League championship treble.

Even before Friday night's Grand Final was played, Karadzic was being touted as the man likely to be accorded the coaches' prize a second time.

A true sporting journeyman, Karadzic plied his trade in his native Yugoslavia, France and Cyprus before coming to Australia.

He had a brief spell with Adelaide City in the national league and made his mark by scoring on debut.

The immensely talented midfielder or striker, or sweeper has captained South Australia and been a dominant player on the Adelaide scene ever since his arrival in 1992.

His free kick expertise has clinched the results of many vital games, notable finals for the Blues.

This season could be Karadzic's last with Blue Eagles, but he emphasises that this is no certainty.

"I know a couple of people in Japan and I'll be going on a working holiday at the end of the season," Karadzic said.

"If a job offer comes up, I could stay a little longer, but I don't think anyone would want me there."

One of the people Karadzic knows in Japan is Branko Babic, the former Red Star Belgrade supremo, who visited him in Adelaide last year.

"I want to further my knowledge of the coaching trade and reach the point where I could be good enough to accept any job."

Karadzic regards himself as 'lucky' to be in charge of the Blue Eagles team. "I have very good players in the club — many who don't need to be taught anything, except how to behave and how to adjust to the rules."

GOLDEN OLDIES CLAIM RECORDS

Well done to Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks in breaking his own Premier League goalscoring record of 25 goals in a single home and away season.

As we all know, 'Brooksie' stepped up the pace to net 28 times this campaign to better his effort when he also took out the Sergio Melta Medal for White City Woodville in 1996.

But, Brooksie and his modern day colleagues have a long way to go to hit the heights established by Cumberland forward Malcolm Dunbar, who in the First Division season of 1943 scored a staggering 40 goals.

Michael Brooks: League's top goalscorer.

Closest to that was Birkalla hot shot Harry Jones with 36 league goals in 1961, while the late Horst Welk of Adelaide Juventus contributed 35 goals to his club's First Division tally in season 1956.

George Topperwein of Sturt was a prolific scorer, netting 26 in 1949 and 28 the next year.

More recent net busters were flame-haired Ted Donnelly of Cumberland with 32 goals in 1960.

ABSW is indebted to South Australian Soccer Federation historian Denis Harlow for delving deep into the archives to supply the above information.

OLYMPIC NOT THE FIRST

Denis Harlow also was right on the ball in setting the record straight for State League minor round champions Olympic FC about their outstanding achievements this season.

Olympians romped through the 22-game home and away campaign unconquered with 17 wins, five draws and no losses.

Along the way Olympic scored 66 goals and conceded just 19. Naturally, the question arose — is this new club the first to emerge from battle with reputation unscathed for the entire season.

The Austria club was the first to perform the feat, winning 19, drawing two and losing nil of the 21-match second division season in 1961.

Along the path to promotion, Austria scored 102 goals and conceded a miserly 16.

JETS COACH UPSET

Modbury Jets coach Duane Gray is disturbed by the actions of a rival coach, who attempted to poach some of his players during the Premier League finals campaign.

Gray described the approaches as, 'An absolute disgrace.' "We all know that off season approaches are made, but this happened before the Preliminary Final was played," Gray said.

FIRE STOKED

The Adelaide Fire bid to enter the NSL has died, but the smoldering embers have been revived and the concept of a second SA team is very much alive.

SASF chairman Les Avory made this point yesterday when he declared, "We have not lost sight of our initial objective."

Avory reported that the Fire working party has set Christmas as the target date to secure the support of three major investors.

"Based on the interest shown when we launched our original membership bid, we are very confident that the sporting public would support our attempt to field this team," Avory said.

"We decided not to proceed with the original bid because we were under capitalised and we were not prepared to risk falling at the first hurdle.

"Our aim is to get it right before we join the race. That way we can be assured of fielding a competitive team which will do our State justice."

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 presenter Robbie Popplestone and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Community Project — last week the soccer fraternity joined the Wollongong club at a luncheon at the Lagoon restaurant.

Several Wolves players attended and mixed with local business people. The highlight of the day was the auctioning of a Wolves shirt autographed by all the players. A fierce bidding resulted in the winner being TJF-EBC Pty Ltd — a new Illawarra company specialising in lifting and handling equipment — paying an amazing $7000 for the team shirt with the WESTPAK helicopter being the worthy beneficiaries of the day.

■■■■

Living Treasure Committee — has been formed to honour Matthew Horsley celebrating 10 years with the Wolves. The first event was a successful Race-Day at Kembla Grange racecourse with over 400 attending and another event is planned for Friday September 22 at the Wollongong Unicentre, University Hall. The event will pay tribute to Matt Horsley.

Illawarra sport has never known such loyalty, never has there been a sportsman in our region who has sacrificed so much in financial terms just to pull on the Wolves jumper.

Once again the Illawarra soccer supporters are called upon to come along for a night of laughter and entertainment, fine food and wine. The committee is seeking early bookings as there will be a limited amount of seats available.

■■■■

Wolves back in training — back to the rough and tumble of pre-season preparation for the Wolves commenced last Tuesday 15th August. The boys were in good spirits as new coach Ron Corry and assistant Stuart Beedie started the proceedings. Proper fitness training will follow under special fitness coach Lauren Elms who was responsible for the team's fitness level last season.

Most of the familiar faces attended except those four players who have left for greener pastures, as well as Dino Mennillo who at present is in Holland seeking a contract with First Division club FC Twente.

If he is successful it would be a great loss for the Wolves as he has proved quite a hit with the side since joining midway through last season. Several newcomers are also trying to impress the coach and hoping for a playing contract with the Wolves.

The coach will have to cast a careful eye over the talent on view before making up his mind. A raw local youngster, 20-year-old Frank Barila, intends to have a run with the Wolves after completing his Premier League commitments with Western Suburbs in the coming weeks.

His club is supporting his ambitions to step up to a higher grade if the opportunity arises. Frank Barila is a proven striker over the last couple of years with Premier League side Port Kembla and this year with Western Suburbs.

He plays at the club with former Wolves utility player Neil Harlock and has the potential to make an impact with the Wolves. Time will tell if Barila has the commitment, attitude and endurance to command a spot in Corry's first team.

■■■■

Trials planned — friendly games are important to sharpen the side as coach Corry considers an invitation from the Auckland Kingz to play in Christchurch, New Zealand, next month. He also plans trials against State League teams Parramatta Eagles, possibly against Parramatta Power at Garside Park and Northern Spirit at Brookvale Oval.

■■■■

Wolves in another penalty drama — continuing the tradition of dramatic finals, the Wollongong Starlets U/21 side was engaged in a Grand Final shoot-out with Marconi and this time the youngsters could not repeat the senior Wolves success, losing 5-4 on penalties after leading 1-0 in normal time until the final minutes when Marconi equalised in injury time to force a shoot-out.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer — Bampton and Youth Cup finals — Premier League side Kemblawarra won the Bampton Cup against first division team University 3-0, in an entertaining match.

Bert Bampton now 84 was on hand at Wetherall Park to present the trophy to the winning team. The cup competition was first introduced in 1973 in honour of long servicing Association treasurer Bert Bampton who took over in 1943 after serving as a player and administrator for local club Balgownie, one of the oldest clubs in Illawarra.

Bert must be one of the longest serving administrators known in Australian soccer and it was great to see him still in good health.

The Youth Cup was won by Lysaghts 2-1 against Western Suburbs.

Quarter Final results ICU Conference League: University lost 2-3 against Helensburgh, Dapto lost 0-2 to Picton Rangers, Balgownie won 3-0 against Woonona. Kiama beat Bellambi 4-3.

■■■■

Trivia — it was reported recently that the Illawarra Soccer Association is approaching it's centenary in 2003. The Soccer Association was formed in 1903 known then as one would expect as the "South-British Soccer Association."

■■■■

Kemblawarra Coach re-signed — leading Premier League club Kemblawarra was quick of the mark to sign coach John Fleming for another season with the aim to do even better next year with a squad of quality players.

Fleming is a former NSL coach and one of the most experienced soccer mentors in Illawarra. His strong ties with local soccer and family keeps him in the area, benefiting Illawarra soccer.

He is confident his team can do better in the future even though he has been disappointed this year while playing good soccer the boys lacked finishing power.

That will be rectified and the side looks like a force to be reckoned with in the coming season.

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SPORT AND THE AUSTRALIAN GREEK *By Steve Georgakis*

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Blacktown City Presentation Night

The Blacktown City Soccer Club celebrated their magnificent achievements in this season's NSW Super League at their Annual Presentation night in sumptuous surroundings in the Club's auditorium last Friday night.

The room was awash with red, black and white balloons and streamers as the Club rewarded the best individuals in each of their three senior sides.

The First and Reserve grade players were presented with their playing shirts, suitably embroidered to commemorate their outstanding seasons, the Firsts winning both the league and the grand final and the reserves coming second in the league but then going on to also win their grand final.

The Players' Player of the Year awards are highly sought after by the playing staff as the members of each team vote for their own outstanding player and their is no higher accolade than to be judged the best by ones peers. The U/18s award went to the swashbuckling Ryan Noble, the son of former NSL player and local soccer identity, Bobby Noble. Having turned 18 years-of-age this year the young "Nobbser" looks assured of a long future in the game.

The Reserve grade trophy went to Paul Marosevic for the second year running and the 21-year-old defender will be looking to improve on his four first grade appearances of the season just ended in the new NSW Premier League kicking off in November of this year.

Prior to the main award of the evening, the Demons also presented the Club Person of the Year trophy, awarded since 1992 in recognition of outstanding service to football and presented in memory of John Alers, a former club stalwart who devoted much of his time and energy in the early years of the club's existence. The winner this year was Greg Gingell, more affectionately known by all and sundry as "Grumpy", and his was a very popular choice given the amount of work he does behind the scenes.

Fernardo Greco: Blacktown's Players' Player of the Year.

Councillor Danny Mackin and his wife, Doris, represented the Mayor of Blacktown on the night and Councillor Mackin, together with the club's Director of Football, Mr Don O'Regan, presented the final and most prestigious award of a great evening, the First Grade Player's of the Year and this season it went to ace goalkeeper Fernando Greco.

With the safest hands in NSW, Greco, who had previously won the award two years ago, was the mainstay in a Demons' defence that only conceded 27 goals in 28 games. Although still contracted to City, his displays between the sticks must surely attract the interest of the Sydney based NSL clubs. The celebrations carried on late into the night as the players, their partners and club supporters danced on to the excellent music of Mid-Life crisis.

Blacktown City's full record for the 2000 season is as follows:

First Grade:	League Winners	Grand Final Winners
Reserve Grade:	League Runners-up	Grand Final Winners
U/18s:	4th in the League	Lost in semi-final
Super League Club Champions		
U/13s:	League Winners	Grand Final Winners
U/14s:	League Winners	Grand Final Runners-Up
U/15s:	9th in League	
U/16s:	League Runners-Up	Grand Final Runners-Up
Pepsi Super League Club Champions		
U/11s:	4th in League	Lost in Final
U/12s:	League Winners	Grand Final Winners
Pepsi Cadet League Club Champions		

SOUTHS LEAD THE PACK

South Melbourne is well ahead on its Melbourne rivals, Carlton and Melbourne Knights with recent signings.

The former back-to-back champion, has been re-inforcing itself with several key appointments, not the least of which has been the appointment of Mike Petersen as coach to succeed Ange Postecoglou, who is now national youth team coach.

The Lakesiders lost Nick Orlic to Parramatta Power, Olyroo Michael Curcija to Perth Glory (but Curcija has since moved on to Partizan Belgrade, Yugoslavia) and Con Blatsis to Derby County, England. Jim Tsekinis was released.

The gains have been Mehmet Durakovic, from Eastern Pride (former Gippsland Falcons) and in a shock move Zeljko Susa from the Melbourne Knights. The club's 1998 grand final winner, Con Boutsianis is ready to return and already training with the club. "We've just about signed him," Petersen said.

The Knights have largely been on the losing end. Apart from Susa, also departed are captain Ante Kovacevic to Adelaide City and Paul Urlovic to the Auckland Kingz. Released are a string of seniors, including former key players Mark Silic, Mike Reda and John Didulica. Veteran striker Ivan Kelic is doubtful.

The Knights signed Joel Porter from South Australia. Other newcomers are several trialers from the Victorian Premier League, among them Tony Kovacic, Joe Kozic and Sasa Ogenovski (all Preston), Cameron Pino Oakleigh Cannons), Frank Tramontana (Fawkner), Ross Antoniadis (Altona East) and Ivan Razov (St Albans).

Carlton has lost Alex Moreira to Northern Spirit. It is hanging on to Simon Colosimo until after the Sydney Olympic Games before the Olyroo makes a likely move to Middlesbrough, England.

Con Boutsianis: Ready to return to Souths.

His $1.5 million transfer, coupled with a likely overseas transfer of Archie Thompson will significantly boost Carlton's embattled finances. The Blues have acquired striker Robbie Middleby from the Football Kingz.

The national soccer league starts mid-October. A lot of work will need to be done between now and then by all clubs, but as far as the state of play in Victoria is at the moment, South Melbourne has forged a head start on its local competitors.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION — LOWER DIVISIONS

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
GRAND FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Hurstville ZSC 3 Hills United 0.
UNDER 21: Sydney University 1 Mt Druitt Town 0.
UNDER 18: Mt Druitt Town 1 Hurstville ZSC 2.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE
GRAND FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Prairiewood United 4 Western Sydney Lions 0.
RESERVE GRADE: Balmain 0 Nepean District 4.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR
GRAND FINAL

FIRST GRADE: United Eagles 0 Kellyville Kolts 2.
RESERVE GRADE: United Eagles 0 Kellyville Kolts 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE
GRAND FINAL

GRADE 13: Blacktown City 3 Parramatta Eagles 2.
GRADE 14: Blacktown City 0 Marconi Stallions 1 Extra Time (0-0 Full Time).
GRADE 15: Sydney Olympic 1 Newcastle Breakers 0.
GRADE 16: Marconi Stallions 3 Blacktown City 2 Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE
GRAND FINAL

GRADE 13: Southern Branch 4 Ryde City 1.
GRADE 14: Hajduk Wanderers 0 Blacktown Association 1.
GRADE 15: Ryde City 2 AC United 4 Penalties (0-0 Full Time, 0-0 Extra Time).
GRADE 16: AC United 2 Illawarra Lions 4 Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).

SUPER CADET LEAGUE
GRAND FINAL

GRADE 11: Sydney Olympic 1 Sutherland Shire 2 Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).
GRADE 12: Blacktown City 1 Central Coast Coasties 0.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
GRAND FINAL

GRADE 11: Illawarra Lions 1 Ryde City 2.
GRADE 12: CSI Schofields 5 Parramatta City 6 Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
GRAND FINAL

GRADE 11: Mt Pritchard 3 Stanmore Hawks 0.
GRADE 12: AC United 0 Hajduk Wanderers 1.

FULL DIVISION ONE RESULTS & TABLES PAGE 15

NSW Soccer Federation

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— Divisions 1 & 2 —

DULWICH HILL EDGE OUT FRASER PARK TO SET UP GRAND FINAL WITH HAJDUK

DIVISION ONE

In front of an estimated 800-strong crowd and basking in the sunshine at Lambert Park, Division One winners Dulwich Hill edged out close rivals Fraser Park 2-1 to advance to the Grand Final next Sunday at Jensen Park.

There they will meet Hajduk Wanderers who beat them last week and consequently had the week off.

Dulwich looked good in the first half, but fell behind to a controversial penalty, awarded in the 20th minute, when Neil Cogger burst into the area and was challenged by the keeper Peter Trajcevski.

Wayne Crabb pointed to the spot and Cogger converted readily.

Dulwich continued to press and drew level in the 36th when Robbie Todorovski got to the ball first when an Eddie Briscoe free kick deflected off the wall towards the far post.

Todorovski needed to be sharp to beat the keeper and a defender to the ball, but just made it to stab it home from point blank range, injuring himself in the process.

Fraser looked good after the break and twice went close through Cogger and Damian Rosenthal, but it was Dulwich who grabbed the winner when a corner from the left by John Sherry was cleared to the feet of the same player and then lifted back into the goalmouth, where Todorovski rose above the pack to head home, around 10 minutes from the end.

Dulwich beat Ryde City 3-2 in the Under 21 game while Rockdale overcame Stanmore Hawks 2-0 in the Under 18s.

The Dulwich Hill-Hajduk Wanderers Grand Final promises to be a beauty.

DIVISION TWO

Hurstville ZSC looked set to wrap up the Second Division championship when they led 2-0 over Hills United towards the end of their game at Melita Stadium eventually winning 3-0 with a late goal from Steve Zoric to add to the pair from fleet-footed marksman Tony Mihaljevic, who has had more knee operations than most of us could tolerate, yet keeps bouncing back for more punishment.

He proved the difference between the sides as he ran through gaps which did not exist in the first half and exposed a flat Hills defence, completing the job with adroit finishing.

It was a triumph for the old hands as the side was led by Bob Barisic whose career looked over earlier in the season after a long standing injury refused to mend, but who fought his way back to captain the side and Zoric who was put out of the game more than a year ago with a badly broken leg and returned to the side only a matter of weeks ago.

Hurstville ZSC had earlier taken out the Under 18 trophy with a 2-1 win over Mount Druitt who also went down by the same score to Sydney University in the Under 21s.

RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE:

PRELIMINARY FINAL:

FIRST GRADE:
Dulwich Hill 2
(R Todorovski 40/85m)
Fraser Park 1
(N Cogger 22m Penalty).

UNDER 21:
Ryde City Gunners 2
Dulwich Hill 3

UNDER 18:
Stanmore Hawks 0
Rockdale City Suns 2.

See page 14 for all other results

DIVISION ONE – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	22	14	6	2	45	22	48
Hajduk Wanderers	22	15	2	5	42	21	47
Fraser Park	22	11	7	4	47	28	40
AC United	22	12	4	6	39	21	40
Rockdale City Suns	22	10	3	9	42	32	33
Stanmore Hawks	22	7	8	7	27	27	29
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	7	8	7	24	25	29
Hurstville City	22	7	5	10	29	34	26
Auburn United	22	6	4	12	31	48	22
Bathurst '75	22	6	4	12	27	52	22
Illawarra Lions	22	4	5	13	21	43	17
Ryde City Gunners	22	3	4	15	21	42	13

Grade U21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC United	22	13	6	3	74	19	45
Fraser Park	22	12	7	3	58	22	43
Ryde City Gunners	22	13	4	5	43	26	43
Hajduk Wanderers	22	11	8	3	69	16	41
Dulwich Hill	22	11	2	9	64	39	35
Stanmore Hawks	22	8	8	6	41	28	32
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	8	7	7	33	32	31
Bathurst '75	22	8	5	9	46	43	29
Hurstville City	22	7	6	9	41	32	27
Auburn United	22	6	2	14	28	88	20
Rockdale City Suns	22	5	3	14	28	58	18
Illawarra Lions	22	0	2	20	13	135	2

Grade U18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	16	2	4	72	19	50
Stanmore Hawks	22	15	4	3	57	15	49
Rockdale City Suns	22	14	3	5	55	28	45
Hajduk Wanderers	22	13	5	4	45	17	44
AC United	22	13	5	4	47	20	44
Ryde City Gunners	22	14	2	6	54	28	44
Bathurst '75	22	8	3	11	54	38	27
Hurstville City	22	8	1	13	30	39	25
Dulwich Hill	22	7	2	13	28	43	23
Fraser Park	22	5	5	12	43	42	20
Auburn United	22	2	2	18	20	107	8
Illawarra Lions	22	0	0	22	16	124	0

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2000

DIVISION ONE

GRAND FINAL
at
Jensen Park

FIRST GRADE:
Hajduk Wanderers v Dulwich Hill
3.00PM

UNDER 21:
AC United v Dulwich Hill
12.30PM

Under 18:
MSC Liverpool v Rockdale City Suns
10.30AM

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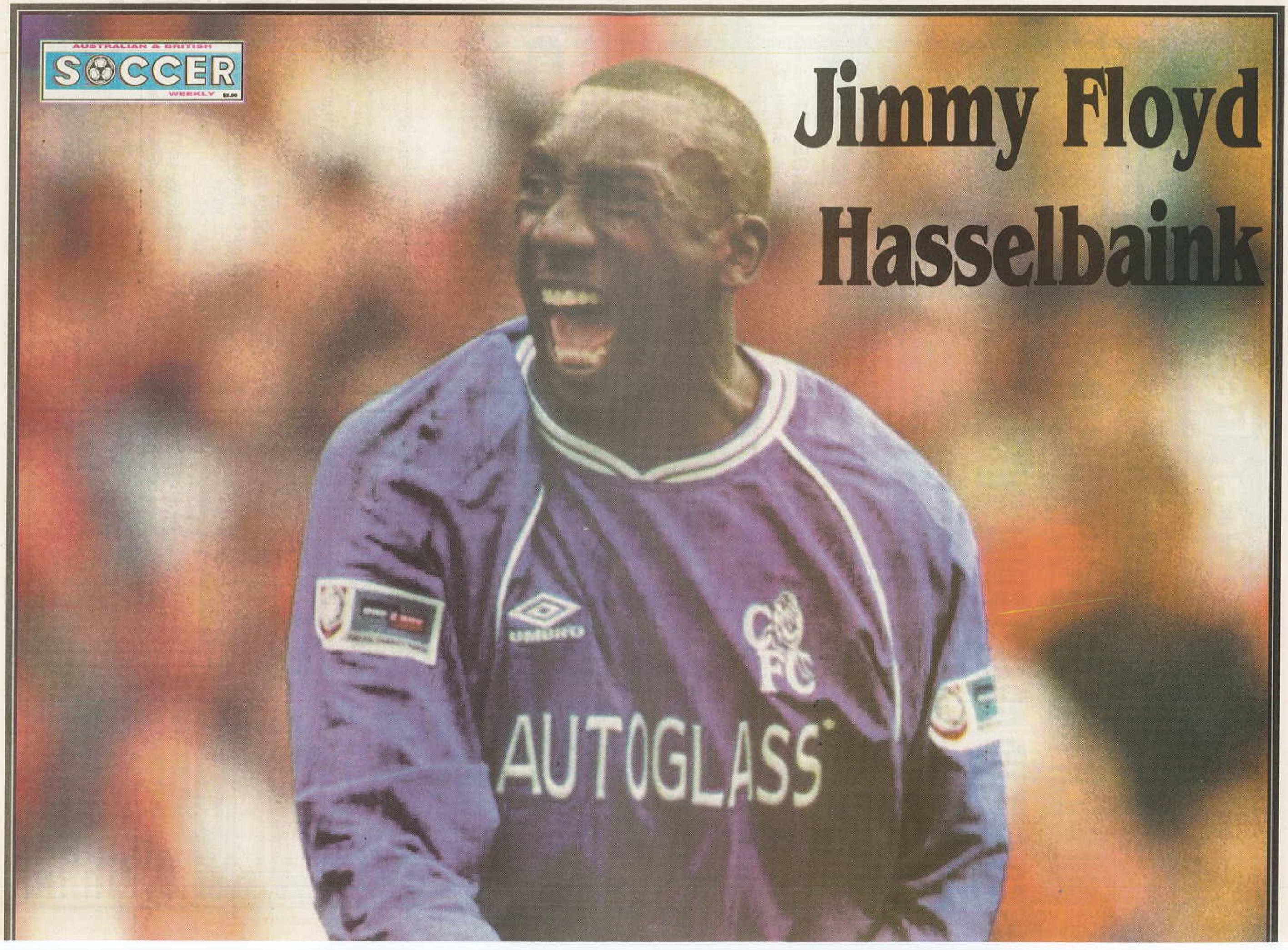
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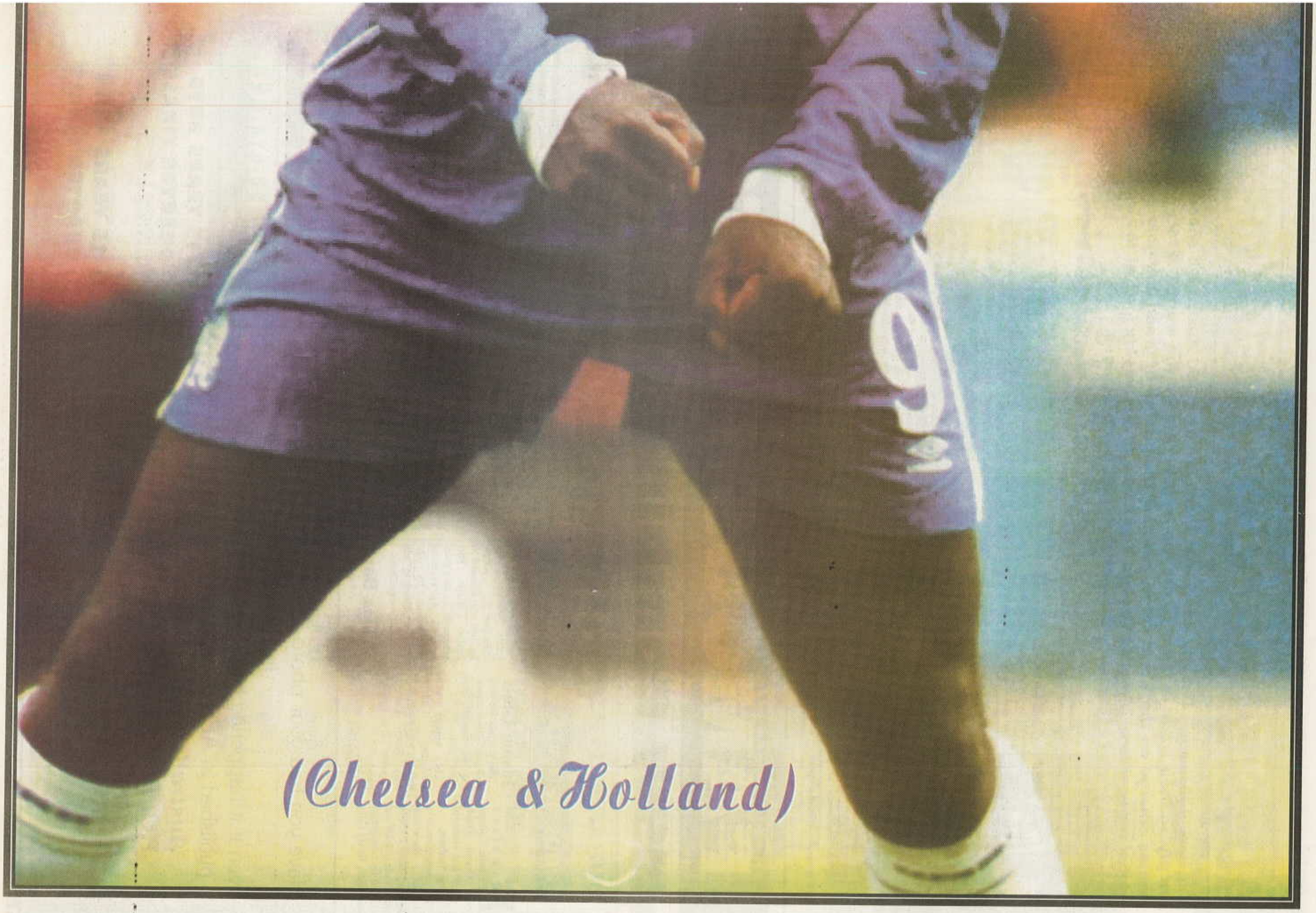
(Chelsea & Holland)

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman ***Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition. Aussies Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performances.***

Con Blatsis: Player of the Week.

England: Olyroo defender Con Blatsis has had a remarkable few days. After being named in the Australian Olympic team last Friday, Blatsis was a surprise starter for Derby County in their opening Premier League match against Southampton.

Blatsis was preferred by Manager Jim Smith over seasoned veteran defender Jacob Laursen, and completed his Premier League debut with a 2-2 draw.

In other Premier League games: Mark Viduka played a full game for Leeds, Mark Schwarzer played a full game for Middlesborough and Danny Tiatto played a full game for Manchester City.

Paul Okon also made his Premier League debut coming on in the last 10 minutes of Middlesbrough's victory over Coventry. Okon will be given limited opportunities before the Olympic Games to cement a first team spot at a side with riches of midfield talent.

France: Parramatta Power striker Mile Sterjovski has been impressing French first division leaders Lille while on trial over the past week.

Coach Vahid Halilhodzic describes Sterjovski as a "very interesting player" and hopes the young Aussie will return to France at the end of September.

Meanwhile, former Marconi midfielder Yane Talcevski also hopes to cement a place at second division side Cannes.

Germany: Paul Agostino has yet again come to the rescue of 1860 Munich scoring the match wining goal against Werder Bremen. Agostino's goal came in the 81st minute and keeps 1860 Munich in the top four of the Bundesliga.

Meanwhile, David Zdrillic made his Bundesliga debut for SpVgg Unterhaching who drew with Freiburg 1-1.

Singapore: The S-League concluded last weekend with Singapore Armed Forces FC winning the championship. Aussies that had good seasons include:

Brian Bothwell, scoring seven goals for Geylang United who finished third on the league table.

Alex Duric scored six goals for Home United, while teammate Ernie Tapai bagged three, helping Home to finish a respectable fourth.

Player of the Week: The meteoric rise of Olympic defender Con Blatsis is well worth a mention. The young Aussie impressed manager Jim Smith so much that he earnt his full Premier League debut after only joining the Rams a week ago. To top it all off, Blatsis was named in the Olympic squad a day prior to the game.

David Zdrilic: Bundesliga debut.

FAMOUS PHOTOS

NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Cup

By Joe Russo

The NSW Combined Catholic Colleges soccer Grand Finals were held last Friday at St George Stadium.

The competition is a knockout competition involving most Catholic high schools in NSW and is run in four categories: Junior Girls, Senior Girls, Junior Boys and Senior Boys.

Junior Girls

This year was the inaugural year of this competition involving girls from Years 7 to 9.

The winners were Mackillop College, Bathurst who defeated St John Bosco College, Engadine 1-0 on a golden goal.

Senior Girls

This competition was started in 1997 and this year's winners were Mackillop College, Bathurst who defeated St Paul's College, Port Macquarie 2-1 on a golden goal. An excellent achievement by the Bathurst school to win both girls' competitions.

Junior Boys

This competition involves boys up to Year 10 and was started in 1995.

This year's winners were once again Holy Spirit College, Bellambi (South Coast) who defeated St Dominic's College, Penrith 2-1 to claim their third title in this competition having previously won in 1995 and 1996.

Senior Boys

The most prestigious and oldest is the Senior Boys' competition which is a statewide knockout involving 64 schools throughout the season who play elimination matches, until finally two of them reach the Grand Final.

The competition takes in almost every corner of the state and has been around since 1987.

Oakhill College, Castle Hill claimed their first title in this competition defeating Marist Brothers, Kogarah 1-0 in a tight contest.

The only goal was scored in the first half in the 21st minute by Matthew Clowes from a header after a pin-point accurate corner from Adrian Papaluca (Marconi junior).

Clowes was later voted player of the match by the tournament's convenor and for Oakhill College it was their first title after their previous best result was runners up in 1996.

Oakhill College now face the winners of the Combined Independant Schools' Competition at Marconi Stadium on Friday September 1.

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer?

Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to — The Editor:

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SCHOOL SOCCER

• BILL TURNER CUP •

15 YEARS BOYS QUARTER FINALS

Palm Beach Currumbin 1 St Aughustines Cairns 0, Epping Boys 2 Kadina 1, Menai 0-5 Westfields Sports 0-4, Notre Dame Shepparton 3 Delroy 2.

15 YEARS GIRLS QUARTER FINALS

South Grafton 1 Cessnock 0, Kincumber 2 William Clarke College 1, Westfields Sports 3 Port Hacking 1.

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis profiles some of the stars to come out of recent National talent Identification Championships

MARK BYRNES

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Mark John Byrnes
Club:	Parramatta Power
DOB:	8/2/82
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	184cm
Weight:	79kg
Positions Played:	Defender

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
-U13 St George
-U14 St George, Melita Eagles
-U15 Sydney Olympic, then played for Olympic Colts
Spent two years at the NSW Institute of Sport.
Age Started Playing Soccer: 6 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Captaining the 1999 Joeys squad and getting runners up in New Zealand. Being the youngest ever to play for the U20 Young Socceroos in the World Cup held in Nigeria in 1999. Lastly making my National League Debut against Newcastle last year.
Ambition: To play professionally overseas and to go to a World Cup with the Socceroos.
Words Of Advice: "Train hard, work hard but have fun and don't lose sight of your goals"
Best Advice Received: "Not to get a big ego, always have your feet on the ground and aim for your best"
- John Byrnes (Father)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Jim Carrey
Favourite Actress: Sharon Stone
Top 5 Movies?
-Braveheart
-Rocky IV
-Something About Mary
-Gladiator
-Shawshank Redemption
Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Austin Powers in Austin Powers.
Best ever concert: Too many to name
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild 9
-Travis
-Rocky IV Soundtrack
-Lenny Kravitz
-Moby
Favourite TV show: Drew Carey Show
Favourite Cartoon Character: Spiderman
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Winston Churchill
-Michael Johnson
-Lance Armstrong
-Cameron Diaz
-Jessica Simpson
-Holly Valance
Entrée: West Australian Scanpi
Main Course: T-Bone Steak
Dessert: Mascoponi Crepe

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Jaap Stam
Favourite Overseas Team: Bayern Munich
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Milan Blagojevic
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Paul Okon
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Gabriel Batistuta
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Mark Bosnich
Hardest Opponent (Played): Carsten Jancker

Every year, Australia produces a hand full of exciting players who are ready to play abroad. One such player who has been in the limelight for the past year has been former Joeys captain Mark Byrnes.

One of the many NSW players making a name for themselves in Australia, Byrnes was part of two NSW squads, which were a big achievement in his career.

"It was my first big experience in the top flight at that time and I thought it was quite good for my career as well," said Mark.

Through the state teams, Mark joined the NSW Institute of Sport, and like fellow team-mate Dylan, saw the many rewards the Institute gave him. "It was a very professional setup where the coaches prepared you for National League football. It wasn't only training on the field but off it they helped you psychologically as a player, especially playing against older opponents," said Byrnes.

Being one of the many successful players in the '99 Joey's squad, Mark captained this squad that will always be remembered as one of the best Australian sides. "It was a great feeling representing your country and I was honoured in getting the captaincy for the team as well. It was an awesome experience I will never forget," said Byrnsey.

However, his representative honours didn't stop there. Mark was chosen in the same year to play for the U20 Young Socceroos in the World Cup in Nigeria, which made him one of the few players to represent his country twice in one year. "That, apart from being captain of the Joeys was the best moment of my life. I was so happy in even getting a mention in this talented squad, and being the youngest in the team was a real big buzz for me," said the young defender.

Like so many young Aussies playing abroad, Mark has had trials at probably one of the most famous clubs in the world, being Bayern Munich. "I spent one and a half weeks at Bayern where not only did I play in the best fields, I trained with some of the best players in the world. It was a very friendly club and I had made many friends, in particular, Kuffour, the big defender showed me the ropes while I was there. Also, the task of marking one of the biggest strikers in the world Carsten Jancker would rank amongst my biggest thrills so far," said the excited youngster.

Opting to stay in Australia, Byrnes was signed by Parramatta Power and had a great first season last year. "It took three games to settle in but I really enjoyed it. I was disappointed that we didn't make the six but hopefully this year we will improve our placing," said Mark.

Players like Orlic and Tobin brought to the club, Byrnes believes these players will add the depth of experience to the squad. "With the inclusion of these players, the squad can only get tougher, hopefully I get a starting 11 spot this year and with any luck we can make the top six and bring the crowds to our matches," said Byrnes.

One more year left on his contract, already many top European clubs have hounded this young player.

Parramatta have begun their new campaign already, and Byrnes' next task is to fly to Vietnam with the team for a pre-season tournament. "This tournament will be a testing one for all the players. It gives a good idea on which players will be starting in this year's league that is why good performances at these games is vital," ended Byrnes.

The year was 1999, the Australian Under 17 Joeys side embarked on something that no other Australian side has ever done and that was playing in the World Cup Final.

Finishing runners up to Brazil, many top players were seen, one player in particular was six-foot plus giant Dylan Macalister.

"It was a dream come true for myself coming runners up in the World Cup.

"All the boys worked hard and got what they deserved in the end," said Dylan.

Macalister took part in the under 14 and 15 state sides for NSW and as he recalls was a big stepping stone towards his soccer career. "It was my best achievement at those ages as I worked hard in getting that far. I was also happy about being captain for the Under 15 NSW side as it was an experience I will never forget," said 'Dyls'.

One of the many players to be a part of the successful NSW Institute of Sport, he like many other boys felt that the Institute helped his game a lot. "It was really professional at the ITC as they focused more on your skills and techniques that really improved my game," said Macalister.

It was from the Joeys team however, that Dylan made a name for himself, as many top European clubs and Australian clubs were after him.

Dylan Macalister (left) and Mark Byrnes embrace after a national match.

So far in his very short career he's had trials in Germany with 1860 Munich and Stuttgart where he has gained much experience for such a young player.

"1860 was really professional, not only were the coaches great, but the facilities were second to none. I enjoyed my trial spell at Stuttgart as they were very friendly and the good thing was that most of the players spoke English. The team itself had many great players and I was happy to be a part of the setup there," said the former Joey.

Dylan however decided to stick it out in Australia and Sydney Olympic were quick to snap up this promising youngster. "My first year at Olympic was quite good as it was a testing out period. I was impressed at the standard of the game, but as for this year goes, I can't wait to get back to the pitch and play again. My goals this year are to establish myself as a starter in the squad and to also score as many goals as possible. "Winning the championship with Olympic would be a dream come true," said the excited striker.

Pre-season has already started and already Dylan is busily pre-paring for what could be one of the most important seasons for the young-gun. "I've started pre-season great, I feel fit, my speed and strength is in good shape, if all goes well I should have a good season this year," said Macalister.

Dylan has two more years on his contract at Olympic, and already he's had talks with many European clubs but hopes that one day, the German league beckons for this up and coming star. "I really want to have a good season this year, try my best in making the Under 20 squad and then hopefully play abroad," ended Dylan.

Dylan Macalister

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Dylan Jacob Zachary Macalister
Club:	Sydney Olympic
DOB:	17/5/82
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	190cm
Weight:	88kg
Positions Played:	Striker

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
- U13 – U14 Sydney Olympic
- U15 Manly Warringah
Spent one and half years at the NSWIS
Age Started Playing Soccer: 5 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Scoring in the 1999 U17 World Cup match against Brazil and taking part of the final of the '99 World Cup against Brazil.
Ambition: To make as many first grade games as possible this year and to play in Europe.
Words Of Advice: "Train like you play"
Best Advice Received: "Always go with your instincts"
(Colin, Father)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Adam Sandler
Favourite Actress: Julia Roberts
Top 5 Movies:
-Fight Club
-The Show
-Gone In 60 Seconds
-Road Trip
-The Sound Of Music
Favourite Comedian: Adam Sandler
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Brad Pitt in Fight Club.
Best ever concert: No Fun At All at MXPX
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
- Any MXPX cd's
- Blink 182
- N'Sync
- Slick Shoes
- O.S.B.
Favourite TV show: Dawson's Creek
Favourite Cartoon Character: Snoopy
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Sister
-Cousin
-The Girl from the N'Sync Video clip
-Jesus
-Scotty Law
-Muhhammed Ali
Entrée: Penne Pasta
Main Course: Seafood Platter
Dessert: Crepe Suzzette

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Gabriel Batistuta
Favourite Overseas Team: Barcelona
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Lothar Matthaus
Most Admired Midfielder: Raul
Most Admired Striker: Gabriel Batistuta
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Rene Higuta
Hardest Opponent (Played): Paolo Thiam (Stuggart)

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

Tour of North Korea and China

Matildas Downed by China

August 14, 2000

CHINA	3
AUSTRALIA	0

Scorers: Liu Ailing 30, Sun Wen 77, Jin Yan 85 in Yangzhou
Crowd: 8,000 approx

The Matildas lost 3-0 to China in the first of two matches against the world number two last Monday week in Yangzhou.

Overall, play was a lot more even than the three-goal difference suggests, but Australia's lack of cutting edge up front is the one area requiring improvement.

The bumpy, narrow pitch did not suit either team but the usually slick Chinese outfit still managed to put away their few chances.

Sun Wen: Cheeky back-heel.

The Matildas made a great start in the sweltering heat and humidity and more than matched a nervous China for the opening half hour before then conceding a goal.

With the Australians backing off, midfielder Liu Ailing drilled the ball into the far corner of goal.

The Matildas created a few good attacks, Sacha Wainwright pushing forward and providing the crosses, but the chances went begging.

Running through from deep, Wainwright also found herself one-on-one with the keeper, only to be blown offside by the referee.

Australia were still fighting hard when China's 77th minute second goal all but killed off the visitors' chances.

Inside the six-yard box surrounded by defenders, superstar Sun Wen somehow managed to back heel the ball into goal.

Amy Wilson: One of Australias best.

Pushing up in search of a goal, the tiring Australian defence was caught out with five minutes remaining. Striker Jin Yan got in on the end of a ball over the top of the defence and lobbed home for a final score of 3-0.

Best for Australia were midfielder Amy Wilson, and defenders Wainwright and Cheryl Salisbury.

"No complaints with the result, although 3-0 flattered them," said National Coach Chris Tanzey. "I didn't learn anything new about them, but a heap about us. The tour has been very worthwhile from my point of view. I'm looking forward to the next game."

Australia: Wheeler, Salisbury, Wainwright, Alagich, Tann-Darby (Small 40), Wilson, McShea (Hepperlin 38), Forman, Duus (Garriock), Hughes, Ferguson (Golebiowski).

RED CARPET TREATMENT

It turned out to be a marathon journey from Pyongyang in North Korea to Yangzhou in China, a 'small' city of a mere four million.

A flight from Pyongyang to Beijing, a two and a half hour wait, and another flight from Beijing to Nanjing.

But 20 minutes from their destination, the passengers were informed that horrific weather meant they would have to detour and land elsewhere. An even longer wait at a small airbase, and the Aussie visitors were finally back on the plane for a second attempt at Nanjing.

Once there, it was a three hour bus ride to Yangzhou. Accompanied by a police escort for the duration, the trip was a hairy experience, dodging road works and the general chaos of traffic in China.

Bedraggled from the day's travelling, five hours after their scheduled arrival time, the Matildas' spirits were soon uplifted once they set foot inside the new hotel. Head of Delegation Jodie Camden was asked to lead the group in, followed by National Coach Chris Tanzey, the officials and players.

There they were met by numerous VIPs and all the staff of the hotel, who had formed two welcoming lines in the hotel lobby. The locals had waited five hours for the occasion.

They clapped their honoured guests, and presented everyone with flowers. Huge banner signs welcoming the Australian Team hung overhead and television cameras were there to record the action. The guests were then given their room keys and whisked to the lifts, with dinner awaiting them.

The delightful friendliness and hospitality continued throughout the team's stay in Yangzhou. The television cameras followed the team wherever they went, with coach Tanzey in demand for numerous interviews. Autograph hunters were in similar abundance.

An extravagant dinner for the two teams was held the following evening, the night before the two did battle.

MATILDAS' IN SHOOT-OUT WIN

Thu 17 August 2000
(5-4 on penalty shootout)

AUSTRALIA	0
CHINA	0

in Shanghai
Crowd : 20,000 approx

The Matildas recorded a penalty shoot-out win over world number two China last Thursday night in Shanghai, in what was their final international before the Olympic Games.

The Matildas' 5-4 win from the penalty spot after a scoreless 90 minutes is the first ever Australian victory over China on Chinese soil.

The Matildas had lost in a penalty shoot-out to China two months ago in Sydney during the Pacific Cup to break a 1-1 deadlock. Australia's only previous victory over the classy Chinese was a 2-1 result in Canberra to win the 1997 Tri-Nations Series.

The occasion was set. The Matildas lined up for the anthems in the magnificent 80,000-capacity Shanghai Stadium under lights, with its carpet-like surface, and a vocal crowd of 20,000. Facing what is considered the finest technically-adept team in the world, television cameras were beaming the action live across the expanse of China.

This was the last match of the toughest of tours, where solid performances had gone unrewarded. Now was the final chance to pull something big out of the bag which couldn't escape notice and would boost the confidence of the underdog Matildas leading into final Olympic preparations.

Australia made a fantastic start and enjoyed the better of play in the opening half hour before China started threatening leading into the break. Both sides created chances in the fast-flowing game.

In the energy-sapping humidity, the Matildas started to tire in the second half but battled hard and still looked promising on the break. With their backs to the wall in the last 15 minutes, Australia held out with a courageous effort to send the game to a deciding shoot-out.

Cheryl Salisbury: Courageous effort.

Even reduced to 10 players with a knock to central defender Cheryl Salisbury after the quota of five substitutions had been made, the Matildas refused to let their guard down. Salisbury later hobbled back on to the park to complete the 90 minutes.

At the final whistle, the Australians were out on their feet, having given their all. But one important task still remained.

Heather Garriock and Alison Forman planted their penalty attempts for Australia before China's third strike was missed by substitute Pan Lina.

Anissa Tann-Darby bravely struck well to score Australia's number three penalty, wiping the memory of her saved attempt against China at the Pacific Cup. Danielle Small made it four, leaving Australia's fate in the hands of 18-year-old Peita-Claire Hepperlin. The midfielder coolly slotted home the winning spot kick to the raptures of the Aussie outfit.

"This would have to go down as the national team's finest result," said National Coach Chris Tanzey. "It was a courageous and professional performance. I'm just so proud of the girls."

Australia: Wheeler, Salisbury, Wainwright, Alagich, Small, Wilson (Taylor 78), McShea (Hepperlin 46), Forman, Duus (Garriock 61), Hughes (Tann-Darby 75), Golebiowski (Ferguson 69).

China: Han Wenxia, Wang Liping, Fan Yunjie, Wen Lirong, Bai Jie, Liu Ying, Shui Qingxia, Pu Wei, Liu Ailing, Sun Wen, Jin Yan (substitutions unavailable)

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Applicants are invited to apply for the following:

WOMEN'S SOCCER POSITIONS

- **Head Coach**
- **Assistant Head Coach**

For a Victorian Soccer Federation Intensive Training Centre (ITC) program with affiliated status to the Victorian Institute of Sport. We require the services of two highly qualified and motivated coaches with sound knowledge and experience of women's developmental programs. The position is to begin 15/09/00 and run through to 01/05/01 with the opportunity to extend to 01/05/02 dependent on funding and performance review. A competitive salary dependent on qualifications will be offered to the successful candidates.

Closing Date: 31st August 2000

Application in writing to the:
Coaching and Development Manager
Victorian Soccer Federation
236 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne. VIC. 3205

Info@soccervictoria.org.au or by facsimile
(03) 9682 9777

Sweden's Olympic Roster

Sweden has named 20 players for its Olympic campaign, two presumably being 'alternates' on standby.

Seven of the group hold Olympic experience, having competed at the inaugural women's football competition in Atlanta 1996 where they placed sixth. Fourteen of their 7th-placed 1999 World Cup Team have survived the cut.

Amazingly, National Coach Marika Domanski-Lyfors has included two debutantes, yet to play a single international at full senior level.

The Matildas take on rivals Sweden on their second Group E match on 16 September at Sydney Football Stadium.

★★ EXCLUSIVE FEATURE STORY ★★

Top clubs bid to hijack Champions League

Manchester United and Liverpool have joined a plot by Europe's most powerful clubs to turn the Champions League into a virtual closed shop.

It was revealed that the G14 group has demanded a guarantee that its members gain automatic entry to the competition, effectively freezing out potential challengers such as Arsenal, Chelsea and Leeds United.

England's G14 representatives are understood to have endorsed the plan, which would give them Champions League places as long as they had qualified three times in the previous five seasons.

Signalling the seriousness of their intent, the exclusive group, which includes AC Milan, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Ajax, has also recruited to its cause the UEFA executive formerly in charge of rule changes.

Thomas Kurth was the governing body's high-profile head of club competitions until he defected to advise the G14 clubs on all future projects two weeks ago.

Leeds boss David O'Leary: His team could be frozen out of the G14 Champions League scenario.

It was the G14 clubs who forced the radical facelift of the Champions Cup to include the runners-up of the major domestic leagues as well as the enlarged format of two group stages.

A source close to the association's powerbrokers said that they are expected to get their way again.

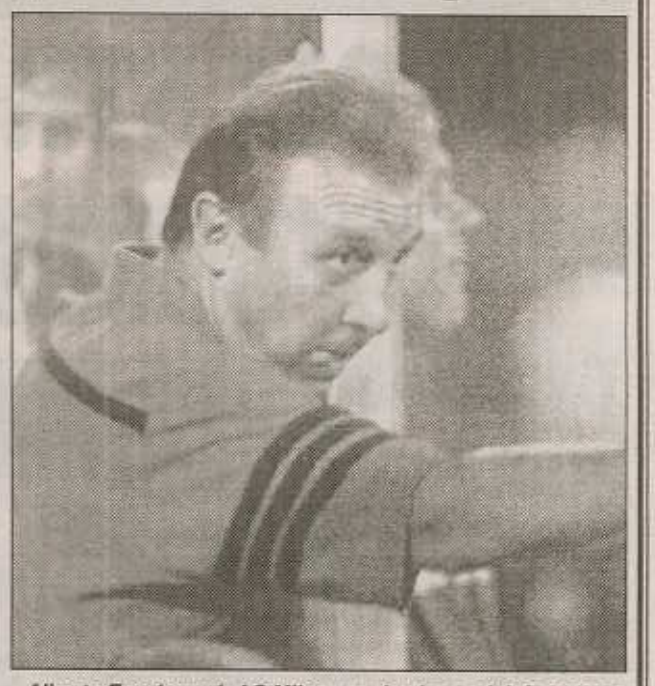
'UEFA has bought them off for a couple of years but, like bad bullies, G14 always comes back for more,' he said.

'It will probably succeed in getting its own way over this issue as well but even if it doesn't achieve all of its demands it will force some concessions elsewhere.

'UEFA has given in to it on almost everything else that it has asked for and there's no reason to believe that this time will be any different.'

The system advocated by G14 will mean that it will be almost impossible to budge any of its number from the Champions League, enabling the clubs to benefit most from the huge sums which accompany participation.

At the moment a successful run in the competition can account for up to 50 per cent of a club's profit in a season. Recruiting Kurth is seen as a master-stroke since the friction which has built up between the old guard and the G14 had been forecast to end in confrontation.



Alberto Zaccheroni: AC Milan coach whose club is part of the G14.

Kurth is seen as the conduit to ensuring that the new format is introduced with the minimum of resistance as soon as next season.

This latest assault on Europe's top competition will, however, be met with protest from all quarters.

WHO WILL REPLACE ALAN SHEARER?

Alan Shearer has retired from international football — and Kevin Keegan has less than a month to decide who will replace him in the England team.

Michael Owen, if he is fit, can be considered a certainty to start next month's friendly against France and England's opening World Cup qualifier against Germany at Wembley.

But who would be the best option alongside him? ABSW examines the six leading candidates, who, for all their undoubted skill, have scored just four England goals between them...

Michael Bridges (Leeds United)

AGE 22 CAPS 0 GOALS 0

STRENGTHS: Scored from all angles for Leeds last season - 21 in total. Has an uncanny ability to retain possession in the penalty box.

WEAKNESSES: Untried with only one good season behind him. Needs to develop the aura of superiority that Shearer carried into matches.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: Both are so mobile they could end up running into the same channels instead of dovetailing their talents.

CHANCES: As yet, none. A better long-term bet, although similar form to last season could improve his prospects.

Andy Cole (Manchester Utd)

AGE 28 CAPS 7 GOALS 0

STRENGTHS: Every time that he's written off as not being international class, he seems to go on a goal scoring bender to disprove the theory.

Michael Owen: Certain starter if fit.

WEAKNESSES: His miss-to-score ratio is too high. Has a reputation for being difficult to get on with.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: May be off playing their own separate games too much to notice the other. Like Phillips, probably too similar.

CHANCES: Keegan gave him his opportunity in the big time. Then again, he also sold him and that came later. Take the hint, Andy.

Dion Dublin (Aston Villa)

AGE 31 CAPS 4 GOALS 0

STRENGTHS: The best all-round target man available. Superb header and often under-estimated.

WEAKNESSES: His age. Older than Shearer. The unsettled atmosphere at Villa won't help.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: A natural fit. His power in the air and awareness would give Owen the space and ball he craves to wreak havoc in the opposition goalmouth.

CHANCES: Nine years older than Heskey, and it's hard to see him getting a look in unless things get desperate for Keegan. Then again ...

Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

AGE 25 CAPS 14 GOALS 3

STRENGTHS: Most natural goal scorer in English football. Right foot, left foot, outside or inside the box, it all comes the same to him.

WEAKNESSES: No matter how much talent you have you can't score goals from the treatment room. Will that right ankle which plagued him last season ever fully recover?

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: If they ever take the field together we might find out. Their pace and finishing ought to terrify defences.

CHANCES: Needs games, and lots of them, to get his sharpness back. If he does, could emerge as an automatic Keegan choice.

Emile Heskey (Liverpool)

AGE 22 CAPS 9 GOALS 1

STRENGTHS: All arms and muscular legs. A good shielder of the ball, hard to dispossess and links well with fellow strikers.

WEAKNESSES: Goals? What goals? For a man who frightens the life out of the opposition, he appears to be scared by the net.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: The classic big 'un, little 'un combination, although his lack of finishing power may put too much onus on Owen.

CHANCES: The obvious first candidate. Keegan likes him and playing alongside Owen at Liverpool can only help the understanding.

Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)

AGE 27 CAPS 5 GOALS 0

STRENGTHS: Scoring goals. Europe's Golden Boot winner with 30 in the Premiership last season - many of them solo efforts.

WEAKNESSES: He's inexperienced at international level. And, of course, he plays his club football in the forgotten city of Sunderland.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OWEN: Possibly too similar, both in stature and runs they make. Neither can provide a physical presence up front.

CHANCES: Most suited to the Owen role. Has to keep banging the goals in and waiting for injuries to the Liverpool player for his opportunity.

Andy Cole: Never to be written off.

NAPOLI STRUGGLE AHEAD OF SERIE A RETURN

If the past fortnight is anything to go by former Italian champions Napoli are in for a torrid return to Serie A this season.

They have been beaten twice by amateur sides in friendlies and have been frustrated in their attempts to bring Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Baggio to the San Paolo stadium.

New coach Zdenek Zeman has come under pressure from the club's volatile fans and veteran midfielder Oscar Magoni was forced to apologise for an off-the-cuff remark about club president Giorgio Corbelli.

Napoli's pre-season preparations started well enough when they rattled in 16 goals against two amateur sides in July.

But this month they have seized up. They were beaten 1-0 at home by local side Borgosesia and then 2-1 by Biellese.

Although Zeman rested many of his top players for the two matches the defeats were embarrassing.

Serie A sides traditionally play local sides in the close season and frequently hammer them by 10 or even 20 goals. Defeat is almost unheard of.

Zdenek Zeman: Coach under pressure.

Napoli then lost 1-0 to Serie C side Catania in a triangular tournament in Sicily before salvaging a modicum of pride with a 2-1 defeat of Palermo, also of the third division.

But as the team headed back to Naples Magoni made a gaffe which caused them further embarrassment.

"We're pleased with our victory (over Palermo) and happy for president Ferlaino, the only person who is always there to support us," said Magoni, apparently unaware that Corrado Ferlaino, Napoli's patron for over 30 years, was squeezed out in July after Corbelli bought a 50 percent stake in the club.

"Corbelli? I don't know him," Magoni continued. "I only know he's at the coast and gives negative opinions about the way we work from under his beach umbrella."

Within hours Magoni was backpeddling hard.

"There was a misunderstanding," he said. "I assume full responsibility. I know very well that we have a president and he's called Corbelli. I hope to meet the president soon to shake his hand. I imagine he'll be angry when he reads what I said."

Gianfranco Zola: Napoli's prime target.

Corbelli, like so many soccer magnates in Italy, does not have a footballing background.

Zidane calls transfer fees "ridiculous"

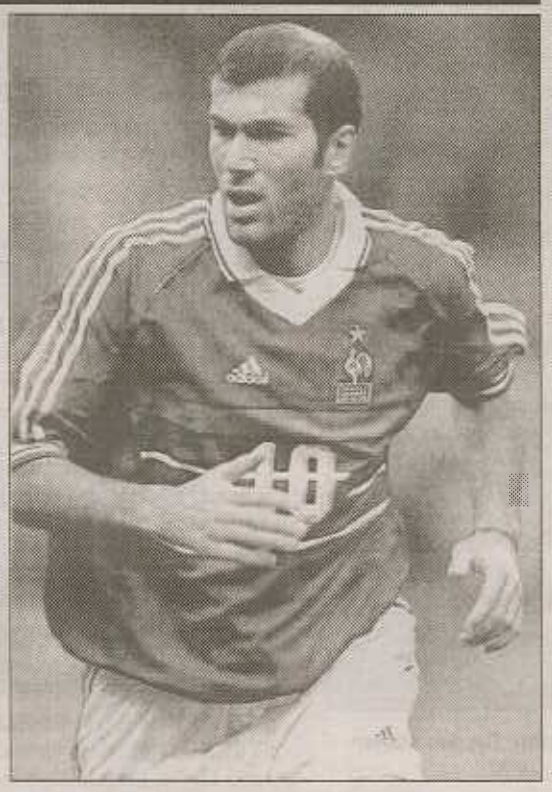
Zinedine Zidane said he found transfer fees paid recently by big European clubs "ridiculous".

"It's meaningless. When I hear in my own case people talk about 500 or 600 million francs ($14 or 15 million),

I find this ridiculous.

"Seriously, it is ridiculous. Because there's no limits anymore," he told sports daily l'Equipe in an interview.

"And when some constantly point out that Luis Figo or Rivaldo make more money than I do, I'll tell them this — I'm not jealous."



Zinedine Zidane: Outraged.

Portugal's Figo was transferred to Real this summer for $96 million.

Reports have circulated that Zidane, the Juventus playmaker, had been approached by Real Madrid.

But the Frenchman insisted one of his goals was to win the Champions League with Juventus after losing in the final in 1997 and 1998.

Vierchowod vows to play on at 41

Italian defender Pietro Vierchowod said last week he had no plans to retire at 41 and vowed to beat Dino Zoff's Serie A appearance record.

"I've played 562 times in the top flight and Zoff played 570 times," said Vierchowod. "It would be a shame to stop now.

That's why I've decided to play on." Vierchowod looked to have missed out on the record when his Piacenza side were relegated to Serie B last season.

But he says he is determined to sign for another first division club before the start of the new campaign on October 1.

Perugia and newly-promoted Brescia, Atalanta Bergamo and Vicenza are all reportedly interested.

Vierchowod, known in Italy as "the Tzar", made his league debut for Como in Serie B in 1977.

He played for Como in Serie A, B and C before moving to Fiorentina, AS Roma and Sampdoria, where he made his name during 12 seasons in which the Genoa club won their only league title and reached the European Cup final.

He then moved to Juventus, Perugia, AC Milan and Piacenza.

In April, Vierchowod broke Zoff's record for the highest number of Italian league appearances. He has played 647 times to Zoff's 644.

Pietro Vierchowod: No retirement just yet.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Still a while away before the Serie A starts (October 1) but most clubs are already into the full swing of matches with either early starts in European competitions and/or the Italian Cup.

Interesting to note that Robbie Baggio is still without a club after having being released by Inter.

It seems that Udinese or Reggina are not tempting enough for him and that an overseas option is now possible. He is reported to have said that he would like to play in the Champions League but it would appear that this is somewhat difficult to achieve with most clubs having already finalised their squads.

However, the one thing is certain is that Baggio is still a class act as a player and would be a valuable acquisition for any team.

□□□□

Lazio, Juventus, Milan, Inter, Fiorentina, Roma and Parma are the big seven in the Serie A, but just who is in charge of these teams?

The Swede, Sven Goran Erikson coaches Lazio, who was once known to be the coach that couldn't win anything. All this changed in recent seasons especially last year when he guided them to their second ever title.

Erikson is yet to win the Champions League but just about everything else has been added to his curriculum. He is a master tactician, has a cool head and is amongst the very best in the business.

Carlo Ancelotti once again coaches Juventus now in his third season at the club.

Ancelotti took over two years ago from Marcello Lippi and was the most hated in Turin.

Fans greeted him with protest banners at his first training session telling him to leave the club. However, things have certainly changed for him now having only just missed out on the title last year.

Ancelotti is a former player for Milan and Roma and was Arrigo Sacchi's assistant national coach for a number of years.

In the Serie A his experience includes Parma and now Juventus. He is one of the younger generation of coaches and is being groomed nicely to take over the national team one day.

Alberto Zaccheroni coaches Milan and is now into his third year at the club. Zaccheroni had an outstanding career at Udinese bringing them right up the ladder for a couple of seasons to match the 'big boys'.

He was quickly bought by Milan and won the title, against all expectations, in his first year at the club. Last year Milan finished third and so far this year it seems that a rift is developing between himself and club president, Silvio Berlusconi.

The only outcome should this rift develop further is that Zaccheroni would be sacked and that would be a real shame because he is a class act.

Alberto Malesani who is also in his third year at the club coaches Parma. Malesani is a former Fiorentina coach but is really a non-entity as a coach in the Serie A. No major titles to his name and an average sort of record, makes him a real surprise packet amongst the coaching elite.

Fiorentina have appointed Fatih Terim this year as their coach to replace the legendary Giovanni Trapattoni. Terim is the former coach of Galatasaray who had an outstanding year last year winning the UEFA Cup.

His record at Galatasaray was excellent but the Turk will find it tough going in the Serie A. Personally I think he will succeed but most pundits are predicting that he won't even last the season!

Finally, I have saved the best for last. Marcello Lippi at Inter and Fabio Capello at Roma. Lippi was a legend at Juventus and his five seasons at the club yielded three Championships amongst many other things.

Lured to Inter where a lot is expected of him, he didn't produce the goods there last year in his first year at the club. He will have enormous pressure applied to him this year to succeed.

Capello has arguably the best track record of any Serie A coach. Four titles at AC Milan and one at Real Madrid, he has proved himself at the highest level. He is now into his second year at Roma and if anyone can bring them that elusive title (since 1983), then Capello is the man.

ABSW

WORLD

PREMIER LEAGUE

MANCHESTER UTD 2 NEWCASTLE UTD 0

The defending champions could not have wished for a more straightforward victory with which to open the season.

Newcastle's defensive approach to the encounter at Old Trafford counted for nothing and, with striker Andy Cole inspiring United, they never looked like slipping up.

United took the lead in the 21st minute when David Beckham's corner kick was met by Norwegian Ronny Johnsen, whose header was parried into the net by Newcastle goalkeeper Shay Given. Midway through the second half, they secured the three points when Cole and Ryan Giggs exchanged passes for Cole to drill the ball past Given. The attendance at Old Trafford was 67,477, a record for a Premier League match.

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry runs over Sunderland's Stanislav Varga. Henry missed a golden opportunity to level the score as Sunderland ran out 1-0 winners.

CHELSEA 4 WEST HAM UTD 2

An impressive start from expected championship challengers Chelsea. Dutchman Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, making his league debut for the Londoners, converted a penalty in the 30th minute after being brought down by West Ham 'keeper Shaka Hislop. Three

minutes into the second half Italian Paolo di Canio burst into the left-hand side of the penalty area to equalise. Then a superb free kick from Italian veteran Gianfranco Zola (59th) and two goals from Mario Stanic (78th and 90th), the first a gem, sealed the Chelsea win. Frederic Kanoute got a consolation goal for West Ham in the 85th.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 4 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Andy Hunt gave Charlton the perfect start in the 10th minute of their battle with fellow promoted City when he latched on to a through-pass from John Robinson to score.

Robinson then gave the London side a 2-0 half-time lead when he fired home in the 42nd. The Londoners pulled away with goals from Mark Kinsella in the 72nd and a penalty from Graham Stuart in the 80th.

COVENTRY CITY 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 3

A diving header from Cameroon's Joseph-Desire Job put Middlesbrough ahead in the 22nd. Croat Alen Boksic had the ball in the net shortly afterwards for the visitors but the goal was disallowed.

Poor 'Boro marking at a free kick from new signing David Thompson allowed John Eustace to equalise for the Sky Blues in the 41st and leave the two teams level at the break.

But Boksic struck twice within three minutes in the 59th and 62nd to seal the Middlesbrough win. Coventry's poor day was made worse by the sending-off of Thompson in the 71st.

DERBY COUNTY 2 SOUTHAMPTON 2

Hassan Kachloul pounced twice within seven minutes to give Southampton a brilliant start with goals in the 15th and 22nd minutes. Branko Strupar pulled a goal back for Derby in the 32nd to narrow the visitors' lead to 2-1 at halftime. Deon Burton equalised for the Midlanders four minutes into the second half.

LEEDS UNITED 2 EVERTON 0

A glancing header by Alan Smith gave Leeds the lead in the 16th minute. Smith struck again from close range in the 37th minute after a spectacular volley by Ian Harte was blocked.

LEICESTER CITY 0 ASTON VILLA 0

The only game of the day to end goalless. There was plenty of energy and determination in the Midlands derby but little real excitement.

LIVERPOOL 1 BRADFORD CITY 0

After a goalless first half, big-spending Liverpool sealed an important winning start with a piece of individual brilliance from striker Emile Heskey in the 67th.

SUNDERLAND 1 ARSENAL 0

A bad day for last year's runners-up Arsenal. Ray Parlour missed two good opportunities for Arsenal in the first half.

The Londoners went behind in the 53rd minute when former Arsenal player Niall Quinn rose above England goalkeeper David Seaman at the left post to head the ball home.

Arsenal had several chances to equalise after the break including a late effort from France's Euro 2000 hero Thierry Henry but Sunderland held on.

The London club's day was made worse by the sending off of Patrick Vieira for elbowing in the dying seconds.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3 IPSWICH TOWN 1

Promoted Ipswich began their Premier League campaign with a goal in the ninth minute from Mark Venus but Tottenham's new signing Sergei Rebrov inspired the London club.

Darren Anderton converted a penalty in the 30th minute and Rebrov provided the pass for Steve Carr to give Spurs a 2-1 half-time lead with a goal in the 31st minute. Les Ferdinand added Tottenham's third in the 82nd.

Manchester United central defender Ronny Johnsen (No. 5) climbs above Newcastle defenders to give the reigning champions their first goal of the season.

Full Premier League guide pages 24 & 25

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

How long can Ipswich Town stay in the English Premier League? If recent history is any guide they'll be back in Division One within a year. Teams that have gained promotion via the play-off generally don't stick around in the top flight for long.

Watford, Crystal Palace and Charlton all bear witness to this fact with only Leicester City bucking the trend of late. Town have managed to hang on to England Number three 'keeper Richard Wright but haven't strengthened their squad sufficiently to stay out of the bottom three. Expect them to be the first club relegated.

Charlton Athletic stormed away with the Division One title last season but, as everyone knows, the step up to the Premiership is a massive one. If the Addicks opening day 4-0 drubbing of Manchester City is anything to go by they will not go down without a fight. The Londoners are better prepared than two years ago but I can't see them collecting the 40 odd points required for safety.

If unswerving supporter loyalty was a recipe for footballing success, Manchester City would be challenging for the title rather than battling for survival. The last few years have been the darkest in the club's history and everyone at Maine Road is desperate to leave them behind. It's not going to be easy but with George Weah, Paolo Wanchope and Steve Howey on board, City should avoid the drop.

Relegation looms for Jim Smith's Derby County. After a couple of over achieving years, the Rams struggled last season and look set to do so again. A lot will depend on the performances of Rory Delap and striker Branko Strupar but a lack of depth will see the Rams exposed to often.

If there was an award for intelligent transfer dealings, it would have to go to Bradford City. Operating on a tight budget, the Bantams lured David Hopkin from Leeds, Romanian international Dan Petrescu and striker Benito Carbone. Bradford lacked a proven goal scorer last season so Carbone could be their salvation. If the Italian can remain focused Bradford will survive by the skin of their teeth, which would suit their fans just fine.

Many felt manager Martin O'Neill's departure to Celtic would precipitate a player exodus from Leicester City. But with Muzzy Izzet, Neil Lennon and Matt Elliott all re-signing, it looks as if the Foxes will remain competitive.

Although unlikely to repeat last year's fantastic effort they should be able to steer clear of trouble. They'll probably win the League Cup again as well.

Coventry have turned escaping relegation in to an art form. For 33 years they have defied the odds and they have the team to do it again. There is plenty of money at Highfield Road after Robbie Keane's sale to Inter Milan so expect Gordon Strachan to strengthen his squad over the next few weeks. Ex-Norwich forward Craig Bellamy won't be the only new arrival for the Sky Blues.

Another perennial escape artist is Southampton. It will be another hard slog but Premiership football should remain at the Dell. Kevin Davies and Marian Pahars will score plenty of goals but can the Saints defence keep enough out?

Glenn Hoddle is an astute manager and should get enough from limited resources even if, like so often in the past, it means a fight until the last day.

Mid-table obscurity beckons for both Sunderland and Aston Villa. Even though Sunderland defeated Arsenal in their first game they will be hard pressed to improve on last year. If Kevin Phillips succumbs to injury or a loss of form, the Black Cats could slip out of the top 10. It was surprising that only Carbone left Villa as many senior players complained of personality clashes with manager John Gregory. Yet they've remained with the club and with the addition of the experienced Luc Nilis and David Ginola the Villans will cruise to about 12th.

ENGLISH PRE

2000

A club-by-club preview of all 20 teams

THE TRANSFERS

Major transfers involving English Premier League clubs since the end of last season:

Arsenal:

In: Robert Pires, winger, Marseille, 5.5 million pounds ($13.75 million); Lauren, midfielder, Real Mallorca, 7.0 million pounds ($17.5 million); Guy Demel, midfielder, Olympique Nimes, free.

Out: Marc Overmars, winger, Barcelona and Emmanuel Petit, midfielder, Barcelona, joint fee 29 million pounds ($72.5 million); Davor Suker, striker, West Ham, free; Nigel Winterburn, defender, West Ham, undisclosed.

Aston Villa:

In: David Ginola, winger, Tottenham, 3.0 million pounds ($7.5 million); Alpay Ozalan, defender, Fenerbahce, 5.6 million pounds ($14 million); Luc Nilis, striker, PSV Eindhoven, free

Out: Benito Carbone, striker, Bradford, free. Steve Watson, defender, Everton, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Mark Draper, midfielder, Southampton, 1.5 million pounds ($3.75 million).

Bradford City:

In: Dan Petrescu, defender/midfielder, Chelsea, 1.0 million pounds ($2.5 million); David Hopkin, midfielder, Leeds, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Benito Carbone, striker, Bradford, free; Peter Atherton, defender, Sheffield Wednesday, free, Ian Nolan, defender, Sheffield Wednesday, free

Out: Jorge Cadete, striker, Benfica, loan return.

Charlton Athletic:

In: Jonatan Johansson, striker, Rangers, 3.75 million pounds ($9.4 million); Claus Jensen, midfielder, Bolton Wanderers, 4 million pounds ($10 million). Karim Bagheri, utility, Piroozi, Iran, 400,000 pounds ($1.0 million)

Out: No significant transfers.

Chelsea:

In: Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, striker, Atletico Madrid, 15 million pounds ($37.5 million); Eidur Gudjohnsen, striker, Bolton Wanderers, 4 million pounds ($10 million); Mario Stanic, midfielder, Parma, 5.6 million pounds ($14 million); Christian Panucci, defender, Inter Milan, one year loan.

Out: Chris Sutton, striker, Celtic, 6.0 million pounds ($15 million); Dan Petrescu, defender/midfielder, Bradford, 1.0 million pounds ($2.5 million); Didier Deschamps, midfielder, Valencia, 2.3 million pounds ($5.75 million); George Weah, striker, loan return to AC Milan (then on to Manchester City).

Coventry City:

In: David Thompson, midfielder, Liverpool, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million).

Out: Robbie Keane, striker, Inter Milan, 13.0 million pounds ($32.5 million); Noel Whelan, striker, Middlesbrough, 2 million pounds ($5 million); Gary McAllister, midfielder, Liverpool, free; David Burrows, defender, Birmingham City, free.

Derby County:

In: Georgi Kinkladze, winger, Ajax Amsterdam, 3.0 million ($7.5 million); Danny Higginbotham, defender, Manchester United, 2.0 million pounds ($5 million); Bjorn Otto Bragstad, defender, Rosenborg Trondheim, 1.5 million pounds ($3.75 million).

Out: Esteban Fuertes, striker, Lens, 4.0 million pounds ($10 million); Mikkel Beck, striker, Lille, 500,000 pounds ($1.25 million); Tony Dorigo, defender, Stoke, free

Everton:

In: Alex Nyarko, midfielder, Racing Lens, 4.5 million pounds ($11.25 million); Paul Gascoigne, midfielder, Middlesbrough, free; Steve Watson, defender, Aston Villa, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Alessandro Pistone, defender, Newcastle, 3.0 million pounds ($7.5 million); Thomas Gravesen, midfielder, SV Hamburg, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Niclas Alexandersson, forward, Sheffield Wednesday, 2.25 million pounds ($5.65 million)

Out: Nicky Barmby, midfielder, Liverpool, 6 million pounds ($15 million); Don Hutchison, midfielder, Sunderland, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); John Collins, midfielder, Fulham, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million).

Ipswich Town:

In: John Scales, defender, Tottenham Hotspur, free; Martijn Reuser, striker, Vitesse Arnhem, 1.0 million pounds ($2.5 million).

Out: No significant transfers.

Leeds United:

In: Mark Viduka, striker, Celtic, 7.0 million pounds ($17.5 million); Olivier Dacourt, midfielder, Lens, 7.3 million pounds ($18.25 million).

Out: David Hopkin, midfielder, Bradford, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Alf Inge Haland, midfielder, Manchester City, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million).

Leicester City:

In: Ade Akinbiyi, striker, Wolverhampton Wanderers, 5 million pounds ($12.5 million); Gary Rowett, defender, Birmingham City, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Callum Davidson, defender, Blackburn Rovers, 1.7 million pounds ($4.25 million).

Out: Pegguy Arphexad, goalkeeper, Liverpool, free

Liverpool:

In: Nicky Barmby, midfielder, Liverpool, 6.0 million pounds ($15 million); Bernard Diomede, winger, Auxerre, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Markus Babbel, defender, Bayern Munich, free; Gary McAllister, midfielder, Coventry, free; Pegguy Arphexad, goalkeeper, Leicester, free.

Out: Stig Inge Bjornebye, defender, Blackburn Rovers, 300,000 pounds ($750,000); David Thompson, midfielder, Coventry, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Phil Babb, defender, Sporting Lisbon, free.

Manchester City:

In: Paulo Wanchope, striker, West Ham, 3.65 million pounds ($7.65 million); Alf Inge Haland, midfielder, Leeds, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); George Weah, striker, AC Milan, free; Steve Howey, defender, Newcastle, 3.5 million ($8.75 million).

Out: No significant transfers.

Manchester United:

In: Fabien Barthez, goalkeeper, Monaco, 7.8 million pounds ($19.5 million).

Out: Massimo Taibi, goalkeeper, Reggina, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Jordi Cruyff, midfielder, Alarves, free; Danny Higginbotham, defender, Derby, 2.0 million pounds ($5 million).

Middlesbrough:

In: Christian Karembeu, midfielder, Real Madrid, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Alen Boksic, striker, Lazio, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Joseph Desire Job, striker, Lens, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Noel Whelan, striker, Coventry, 2 million pounds ($5 million); Paul Okon, midfielder, Fiorentina, free.

Out: Paul Gascoigne, midfielder, Everton, free; Juninho, midfielder, Atletico Madrid, loan return.

Newcastle United:

In: Christian Bassedas, midfielder, Velez Sarsfield, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Carl Cort, striker, Wimbledon, 7 million pounds ($17.5 million).

Out: Temuri Ketsabaia, striker, Wolves, 900,000 pounds ($2.25 million), Silvio Maric, midfielder, Porto, 2 million pounds; Alessandro Pistone, defender, Everton, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Steve Howey, defender, Manchester City, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million).

Southampton:

In: Mark Draper, midfielder, Aston Villa, 1.5 million pounds ($3.75 million); Uwe Roesler, striker, TeBe Berlin, free.

Out: Luis Boa Morte, striker, Fulham, on loan.

Sunderland:

In: Don Hutchison, midfielder, Everton, 2.5 million pounds ($6.25 million); Julio Arca, defender, Argentina Juniors, 3.5 million pounds ($8.75 million).

Out: No significant transfers.

Tottenham Hotspur:

In: Serhiy Rebrov, striker, Dinamo Kiev, 11 million pounds, Ben Thatcher, defender, Wimbledon, 5 million pounds ($7.58 million); Neil Sullivan, goalkeeper, Wimbledon, free.

Out: David Ginola, winger, Aston Villa, 3 million pounds ($7.5 million); Allan Nielsen, midfielder, Watford, 2.25 million pounds ($5.65 million); John Scales, defender, Ipswich, free transfer, Espen Baardsen, goalkeeper, Watford, 1.25 million pounds ($3.2 million).

West Ham United

In: Frederic Kanoute, striker, Olympique Lyon, 4.0 million pounds ($10 million); Davor Suker, striker, Arsenal, free; Nigel Winterburn, defender, Arsenal, free

Out: Marc-Vivien Foe, midfielder, Olympique Lyon, 6.0 million pounds ($15 million); Paulo Wanchope, striker, Manchester City, 3.65 million pounds ($9.2 million).

With the English Premier League kicking off over the weekend ABSW takes a comprehensive look at every club, every transfer and every team's prospects. (last season's finish in brackets)

ARSENAL (2nd): Despite the sale of Emmanuel Petit and Marc Overmars to Barcelona, Arsenal should mount another serious title challenge, especially if French forward Robert Pires (ex-Marseille) and Cameroon international midfielder Lauren Bisan Etame Mayer (ex-Real Mallorca) quickly adapt to the Premier League.

Thierry Henry will again be their main strike threat, but age may tell against goalkeeper David Seaman, 37, and long-serving club skipper Tony Adams, 34 in October.

ASTON VILLA (6th): An awful performance in the FA Cup last May when they were beaten by Chelsea left a cloud over Villa Park during the summer with a number of senior players like Gareth Southgate, Paul Merson and Alan Thompson all reportedly unhappy and seeking moves.

Luc Nilis: Aston Villa's new signing from Dutch club PSV.

Manager John Gregory has brought in David Ginola from Tottenham Hotspur, Luc Nilis from PSV Eindhoven and Alpay Ozalan from Fenerbahce in a bid to push for a European place at the very least. Anything more seems beyond them.

BRADFORD CITY (17th): A civic reception was organised at the end of last season simply because Bradford achieved their goal by surviving their first season in the Premier League.

Since then manager Paul Jewell has moved to Sheffield Wednesday and his little-known assistant Chris Hutchings has taken over. He has been busy in the close season with Benito Carbone, Dan Petrescu, David Hopkin, Ian Nolan and Peter Atherton all moving to Valley Parade where the goal again is survival.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (1st, Division One): Relegated from the Premier League in 1999, Charlton will be desperate to stay up this time and manager Alan Curbishley has invested over 8.0 million pounds ($20 million) in Claus Jensen (ex-Bolton) and Jonatan Johansson (ex-Rangers) to achieve that aim.

Will almost certainly battle against the drop all season. No one will be surprised if they go straight back down but they should just about survive.

CHELSEA (5th): The FA Cup winners played impressively to beat Manchester United 2-0 in the Charity Shield last weekend which has merely added to the pressure on manager Gianluca Vialli to lift Chelsea's first championship since their only previous success in 1955.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink looks set to score the goals that Chris Sutton (now at Celtic) failed to provide last season.

Could challenge United all the way and a good bet to at least finish in the top three.

COVENTRY CITY (14th): Manager Gordon Strachan is not short of cash after selling Robbie Keane to Inter Milan for 13 million pounds $32.5m and Noel Whelan to Middlesbrough for two million ($5m).

Newcomers include David Thompson from Liverpool and highly rated youngster Jay Bothroyd who was developed by Arsenal but never made the first team. Too good to go down but probably not good enough to qualify for Europe.

MIER LEAGUE

fighting for this season's Premier League title 2001

DERBY COUNTY (16th): Likely to spend another season bobbing along in mid-table despite the presence of gifted Georgian forward Georgi Kinkladze.

EVERTON (13th): New look at Goodison with the arrivals of Paul Gascoigne from Middlesbrough, Alessandro Pistone (Newcastle), Steve Watson (Aston Villa), Niclas Alexandersson (Sheffield Wednesday), Alex Nyarko (Lens) and Thomas Gravesen (Hamburg).

But the loss of Nick Barmby to neighbours Liverpool was a bitter pill for Everton to swallow.

IPSWICH TOWN (Division One, 3rd): Ipswich return to the Premier League after a five-year gap and are likely to face a battle to stay up. Have a traditon of playing attractive football but manager George Burley may have to settle for more pragmatic options this season.

LEEDS UNITED (3rd): David O'Leary's team is still a young one and have been strengthened up front with the arrival of Mark Viduka from Celtic and in midfield where Olivier Dacourt, once of Everton, has returned to England via Lens.

Many were suprised they did so well last season. The title might be beyond them but a top six finish is likely.

LEICESTER CITY (8th): New manager Peter Taylor has a hard act to live up to following the departure of Martin O'Neill to Celtic.

But he has taken over a solid team which won the League Cup last season and is looking forward to a good UEFA Cup campaign. With new signing Ade Akinbiyi arriving from Wolverhampton Wanderers for 5.0 million pounds ($12.5m) to partner Stan Collymore in attack, Leicester should finish in the top half.

LIVERPOOL (4th): It is 10 seasons since Liverpool last won the title but Gerard Houllier's busy summer in the transfer market could see the championship trophy back at Anfield for the first time since 1990.

Nick Barmby (6.0 million pounds — $15m) from arch-rivals Everton will add strength to the attack while German defender Markus Babbel will add some steel to the back.

MANCHESTER CITY (2nd, Division One): City's years in the wilderness have ended and now they face a tough battle in staying among the elite long enough to re-establish themselves as one of the leading clubs in the country.

Their strike force looks encouraging -- Paulo Wanchope (from West Ham) and George Weah (from AC Milan via Chelsea). Dull it won't be.

MANCHESTER UNITED (Champions): United will be looking to break a club jinx this season. They have won successive titles four times (1956 and 1957; 1993 and 1994; 1996 and 1997; 1999 and 2000) but never achieved a title hat-trick.

A third successive title is on the cards now and with Fabien Barthez established as their new No.1 goalkeeper they are likely to be harder to beat than ever.

MIDDLESBROUGH (12th): Manager Bryan Robson has jettisoned Paul Gascoigne and signed Christian Karembeu, Alen Boksic, Paul Okon, Noel Whelan and Joseph Desire-Job in a bid to find the right formula to bring the club their first major trophy.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (11th): With Carl Cort arriving from Wimbledon for 7.0 million pounds ($17.5m) and Alan Shearer concentrating only on club football after his international retirement, Newcastle look like being very dangerous up front and sound everywhere else.

Manager Bobby Robson will be looking to improve on last season's league position with a challenge for a place in Europe.

SOUTHAMPTON (15th): New signings Mark Draper (Aston Villa) and Uwe Rosler (Tennis Berlin) should add more steel to the Saints play with manager Glenn Hoddle hoping for a place in the top half of the table in his first full season in charge.

SUNDERLAND (7th): Did superbly well to finish seventh last season in their first season back in the Premier League after winning promotion.

Kevin Phillips was outstanding with 30 goals and Peter Reid has added to the squad in the summer, the most notable signing being Don Hutchison from Everton. Another good season beckons.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (10th): As the old song says: "Its lucky for Spurs when the year ends in one" but this is unlikely to be the season Spurs win the league for the first time since 1961.

If they win anything it could be the FA Cup (last victory 1991) or the League Cup (first won in 1971).

George Graham will be hoping that his 11.0 million pounds ($27.5m) club record buy of Sergei Rebrov from Dynamo Kiev will score the goals and cheer the fans who are otherwise likely to be loudly booing him for the sale of David Ginola to Aston Villa.

WEST HAM UNITED (9th): The arrivals of Davor Suker and Nigel Winterburn from Arsenal on free transfers will strengthen the best squad West Ham have had for probably 30 years. Frederic Kanoute, who joined for 4.0 million pounds ($10m) from Olympique Lyon, should complete an excellent strike force with Paolo Di Canio as West Ham challenge for a place in the top six.

Manchester United: Can they do it again?

UNITED SET FOR THREE IN A ROW

Forget the recent uninspired performance in the Charity Shield — Manchester United are set to continue their domination of the English Premier League with a third successive title this season.

Alex Ferguson's team, who cantered to the championship by a record winning margin of 18 points last season, could even consider the 2-0 Charity Shield defeat a lucky omen as they won the title after losing the season's curtain-raiser in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Ferguson has made only one major signing this summer with the purchase of goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Although doubts remain about the effectiveness of the defence at the highest level, the arrival of the colourful Frenchman so soon after his country's Euro 2000 success should inject confidence into a United side whose midfield, built round David Beckham and Roy Keane, is without equal in Britain.

United have won successive titles four times in their history (1956 and 1957; 1993 and 1994; 1996 and 1997; 1999 and 2000) but have never achieved a hat-trick of titles.

Only three clubs — Huddersfield Town (1924-25-26), Arsenal (1933-34-35) and Liverpool (1982-83-84) — have done that and United look strong enough to join that elite set.

They will also be involved in the Champions League and the FA Cup, but have the experience and talent to cope with those demands while sealing their seventh title in nine seasons.

HOW THEY FINISHED 1999-2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	38	28	7	3	97	45	91
2. Arsenal	38	22	7	9	73	43	73
3. Leeds United	38	21	6	11	58	43	69
4. Liverpool	38	19	10	9	51	30	67
5. Chelsea	38	18	11	9	53	34	65
6. Aston Villa	38	15	13	10	46	35	58
7. Sunderland	38	16	10	12	57	56	58
8. Leicester City	38	16	7	15	55	55	55
9. West Ham United	38	15	10	13	52	53	55
10. Tottenham Hotspur	38	15	8	15	57	49	53
11. Newcastle United	38	14	10	14	63	54	52
12. Middlesbrough	38	14	10	14	46	52	52
13. Everton	38	12	14	12	59	49	50
14. Coventry City	38	12	8	18	47	54	44
15. Southampton	38	12	8	18	45	62	44
16. Derby County	38	9	11	18	44	57	38
17. Bradford City	38	9	9	20	38	68	36
18. Wimbledon	38	7	12	19	46	74	33
19. Sheffield Wednesday	38	8	7	23	38	70	31
20. Watford	38	6	6	26	35	77	24

Champions League: Manchester United, Arsenal and Leeds
UEFA Cup: Liverpool, Chelsea (FA Cup winners)
Leicester City (League Cup winners):
Relegated: Wimbledon, Sheffield Wednesday, Watford
Promoted: Charlton Athletic, Manchester City, Ipswich Town

TALE-OF-THE-TAPE

ABSW puts its money where its mouth is and tries to predict the ups and downs of the upcoming Premeier League season.

Tipster	Vince Battiato	John Economos	Daniel Giorelando	Julian Murphy
	(Editor)	*(Chief Writer)*	*(Staff Writer)*	*(Murphy's Law)*
Top 3	**Liverpool**	**Chelsea**	**Liverpool**	**Man Utd**
	Chelsea	*Liverpool*	*Man Utd*	*Liverpool*
	Man.United	Man Utd	Chelsea	Chelsea
Relegated	*Southampton*	*Ipswich*	*Bradford*	*Charlton*
	Derby	Southampton	Southampton	Derby
	Ipswich	*Bradford*	*Ipswich*	*Ipswich*
Rank Ousiders	Newcastle	West Ham	Leeds	West Ham
Surprise package	*Man. City*	*Man City*	*West Ham*	*Southampton*
FA Cup	Man.United	Liverpool	Arsenal	Chelsea
League Cup	*Tottenham*	*West Ham*	*Aston Villa*	*Leicester*
First Manager sacked	Glen Hoddle (S'ton)	Peter Taylor (Leic)	Jim Smith (Derby)	John Gregory (Villa)

International Friendlies

Germany give Voeller dream start with win

Germany	4
Spain	1

Mehmet Scholl and Alexander Zickler both scored twice as Germany beat Spain 4-1 in a friendly last week to ease memories of their Euro 2000 disaster and give new coach Rudi Voeller a dream start.

"Rudi! Rudi!" chanted a near sell-out crowd in Hanover as Voeller, one of Germany's most prolific international strikers, became the first coach since Jupp Derwall in 1978 to win his opening match in charge.

"German football is not quite as bad as it was rightly thought to be after the European Championships," Voeller said.

"What made the difference tonight was the players' commitment."

But he warned fans not to be unrealistic about his line-up, which showed few changes from the German team that crashed out of the European Championship without a win less than two months ago.

"There's nothing to celebrate," he said, highlighting Germany's opening 2002 World Cup qualifier against Greece on September 2 as his first true test.

A fine free kick from Bayern Munich midfielder Scholl put Germany ahead in the 24th minute as a new-look Spanish side soaked up pressure from a hard-running German attacking line for much of the first half.

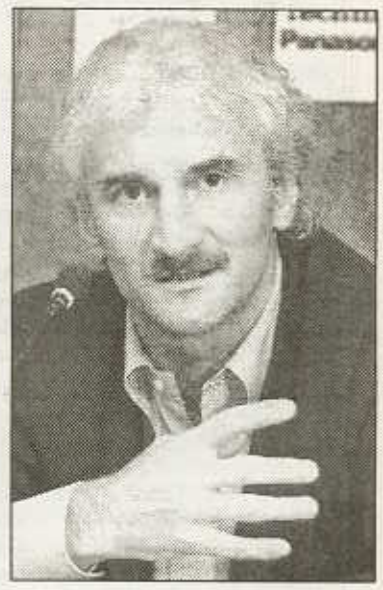
Six minutes after the break Scholl, Germany's sole goal scorer during Euro 2000, latched onto a defensive error by Ivan Campo and exchanged a one-two with Carsten Jancker before burying his second and taking his international tally to seven from 30 games.

His Bayern team mate Zickler, a constant threat down both flanks, seized onto a long pass from Jancker and cut in from the left to score his first with a right-footed strike in the 57th minute.

Five minutes later Scholl turned provider, sending Zickler away down the right to score the home team's fourth with a powerful shot.

Raul Gonzalez, who had a goal disallowed for offside on the stroke of halftime, grabbed a late consolation for Spain.

Coach Jose Antonio Camacho felt his players had been unlucky, although he acknowledged they had a lot of work to do before opening their World Cup qualifying campaign. "We have to stay calm," he said.



Rudi Voeller: Dream start.

MIJATOVIC GIVES YUGOSLAVIA VICTORY

Yugoslavia	2
Northern Ireland	1

Fiorentina striker Predrag Mijatovic struck 12 minutes from time to give Yugoslavia a hard fought 2-1 win over Northern Ireland in a friendly last week.

Northern Ireland had taken a surprise lead on the stroke of halftime through young Manchester United striker David Healy, his fourth goal in only four internationals.

However, the game turned on the second half introduction of PSV Eindhoven striker Mateja Kezman. Kezman, sent off within a minute of coming on as a substitute during a Euro 2000 match against Norway in June, made a far more positive impact on this occasion.

Kezman replaced Parma striker Savo Milosevic after 56 minutes and had levelled within seven minutes, heading home at the far post after a cross from defender Ivan Dudic.

The experienced Mijatovic sealed the win against an injury-depleted Northern Ireland when the impressive Dudic sent him clear of a ball-watching defence. Mijatovic powered the ball past helpless goalkeeper Maik Taylor.

Healy had earlier punished Euro 200 quarter-finalists Yugoslavia for a poor first half, slotting the ball through the legs of goalkeeper Zeljko Cicovic after a through pass from Jeff Whitley.

However, Yugoslavia stepped up the pace in the second half and both Milosevic and Mijatovic struck the woodwork in a spell of pressure before the inevitable equaliser.

Trezeguet hat-trick spearheads French

France	5
FIFA World Stars	1

Euro 2000 hero David Trezeguet scored a hat-trick as France outclassed the FIFA World Stars 5-1 in an international charity match at the Stade Velodrome last week.

Trezeguet had scored the golden goal that allowed France to beat Italy 2-1 and add the European title to their world crown, and he again proved one of the most cunning strikers in the game.

The new Juventus recruit took advantage of a blunder by aging Brazilian defender Aldair to lob Germany's Andreas Koepke and open the scoring as early as the 11th minute.

While France dominated against a makeshift world selection, Christophe Dugarry and Thierry Henry also had fine chances, but it was Trezeguet who made it 2-0 in the 27th.

Koepke dropped a superb shot from French captain Didier Deschamps and the former Monaco striker nicked the ball and made it two from close range.

As play resumed after the break, Trezeguet powered home the finest goal of the evening before leaving his place to Nicolas Anelka, who scored the last from an obvious offside position in the 79th minute.

David Trezeguet: Match-winning performance.

Former Marseille captain Robert Pires, back in the Mediterranean city from Arsenal, had made it 4-0 in the 56th thanks to a perfect through ball from Zinedine Zidane.

The French playmaker said: "The season is only resuming and you can feel it in the legs.

"It was harder than it looked," Zidane added.

But the FIFA World Stars could only manage a consolation goal from a penalty by former Italian star Roberto Baggio 11 minutes from the end.

The match was played to aid FIFA's main sponsored charity for deprived children.

Icey reception for Swedes

Iceland	2
Sweden	1

A late penalty by Panathinaikos midfielder Helgi Sigurdsson gave Iceland a stunning 2-1 win over Sweden in an international friendly last week.

Sigurdsson secured the victory six minutes from time after Eidur Smari Gudjohnsen was brought down by goalkeeper Magnus Kihlstedt.

Sweden anxious to rebuild their confidence after a miserable performance in the Euro 2000, started the game in promising attacking style.

Midfielder Johan Mjallby opened the scoring in the 23rd minute with a header on the rebound from a Fredrik Ljungberg close-range shot.

But Rihkardur Dadasson equalised 16 minutes later and Iceland never looked back.

Pavlin gives Slovenia 1-0 win

Slovenia	1
Czech Republic	0

A second-half goal from Miran Pavlin gave Slovenia a 1-0 away win against the Czech Republic in a friendly international last week.

It was the Czechs' first home defeat under coach Jozef Chovanec since he took over early in 1998.

The home side, hit by a string of injuries in the run-up to the game, went behind in the 59th minute when Pavlin, who scored for Slovenia in their epic 3-3 draw with Yugoslavia during Euro 2000, took a pass from fellow midfielder Ales Ceh and curled an 18-metre shot past goalkeeper Jaromir Blazek.

The Czechs's first effort on target came just five minutes from the end. Less than 5,000 watched the match.

Stubborn Slovaks hold Croatia

Slovakia	1
Croatia	1

Croatia piled on the pressure against Slovakia in a friendly last week but the home side resisted stubbornly to earn a 1-1 draw.

Croatia scored first after Mario Stanic ran through the Slovak defence in 23rd minute and passed the ball to Bosko Balaban, who slotted home.

The Slovaks retaliated five minutes later through Szilard Nemeth.

Croatia had several more attempts on goal but failed to break down the home side.

Swiss and Greeks draw

Switzerland	2
Greece	2

A late goal from Hakan Yakin earned Switzerland a 2-2 draw with Greece in an international friendly last week.

Yakin scored in the 79th minute, his third goal in five appearances for Switzerland, when he deflected home a free kick from Grasshoppers team mate Antonio Esposito.

Auxerre midfielder Alexandre Comisetti had put the hosts ahead in the 13th minute but Greece were 2-1 up after 23 minutes with two goals in three minutes from Marinos Ouzounidis and Georgios Georgiadis.

Switzerland's coach Enzo Trossero said after his first match in charge that his team would have to improve before meeting Russia in their first World Cup qualifier in two weeks.

"We met a very good Greek side, they simply played at a quicker pace than us," said Trossero.

"I really appreciated the play of Yakin in attack but for the team there is still much room for improvement."

WORLD

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until September 6)

1	Brazil	70=	Bolivia	139	Tanzania
2	France	70=	Lithuania	140=	Liechtenstein
3	Argentina	72	Zimbabwe	140=	Rwanda
4	Czech Republic	73	China PR	142	Ethiopia
5	Spain	74	Guinea	143=	Bangladesh
6	Italy	75=	Burkina Faso	143=	Benin
7	Portugal	75=	Cuba	145	St Kitts & Nevis
8	Netherlands	77	Algeria	146	Burundi
9	Norway	77=	Namibia	147	Korea DPR
10	Yugoslavia	79	Estonia	148	Antigua & Barbuda
11	Germany	80	Latvia	149	Bermuda
12	Romania	81	Senegal	150	Gambia
13	England	82	Bosnia-Herzegovina	151=	Botswana
14	Mexico	83	Haiti	151=	Maldives
15	Croatia	84	FYR Macedonia	151=	Sri Lanka
16	Paraguay	85=	El Salvador	154	Andorra
17	Colombia	85=	Mali	155	Dominican Republic
18	Denmark	87	Iraq	156	Cape Verde Islands
19	Sweden	88=	Armenia	157	Mauritania
20	South Africa	88=	Togo	158	Yemen
21	United States	90=	Albania	159	Dominica
22	Chile	90=	Gabon	160	Cayman Islands
22	Scotland	92	Qatar	161	Nepal
24	Morocco	93	Congo	162	Chinese Taipei
25	Russia	94	Barbados	163	Chad
25	Tunisia	95	Moldova	164	Laos
27	Slovakia	96	New Zealand	164	Surinam
28	Belgium	97	Syria	166	Eritrea
29=	Trinidad & Tobago	98	Northern Ireland	167	San Marino
29=	Turkey	99	Indonesia	168	Vanuatu
31=	Egypt	100	Liberia	169	Cook Islands
31=	Greece	101	Jordan	170	British Virgin Is.
33=	Cameroon	102	Singapore	171	Palestine
33=	Ukraine	103	Wales	172	Kyrgyzstan
35=	Israel	104	Vietnam SR	173	Netherlands Antilles
35=	Uruguay	105=	Mozambique	174	Samoa
37	Korea Republic	105=	Uganda	175	Guinea-Bissau
38=	Iran	107	Oman	176	Niger
38=	Ireland Republic	108	Azerbaijan	177	Central African Rep.
38=	Zambia	109	Kenya	178	Macao
41	Slovenia	110=	Belarus	179	Sao Tome e Principe
42=	Austria	110=	Lebanon	180	Cambodia
42=	Peru	112	Malaysia	181	Bahamas
44	Poland	113	Venezuela	182	Philippines
45	Cote d' Ivoire	114	Malawi	183	Tonga
46	Jamaica	115	India	184	Guyana
47	Angola	116	Mauritius	185	Aruba
48	Japan	117	Kazakhstan	186	Belize
49	Honduras	118	Malta	187	Equatorial Guinea
50	Ghana	119	Faroe Islands	188=	Pakistan
51	Iceland	120	Turkmenistan	188=	Seychelles
52	Bulgaria	121	Madagascar	190	Nicaragua
53	Hungary	122	Panama	191	Papua New Guinea
54	Finland	123	St Vincent/Gr	192	Djibouti
55	Nigeria	124	Libya	193	Brunei Darussalam
56	Canada	125	Hong Kong	194	Puerto Rico
57	Saudi Arabia	126	Sudan	195	Somalia
58=	Thailand	127	Tahiti	196	US Virgin Islands
58=	UAE	128	St Lucia	197	Mongolia
60	Guatemala	129	Bahrain	198	Anguilla
61	Costa Rica	130	Solomon Islands	199	Turks and Caicos Is.
62	Switzerland	131	Sierra Leone	200	Bhutan
63	Cyprus	132	Myanmar	201	Guam
64	Uzbekistan	133	Swaziland	202	Montserrat
65	Ecuador	134	Tajikistan	203	American Samoa
66	**AUSTRALIA**	135	Fiji		
67	Congo DR	136	Grenada		
68=	Georgia	136	Lesotho		
68=	Kuwait	138	Luxemburg		

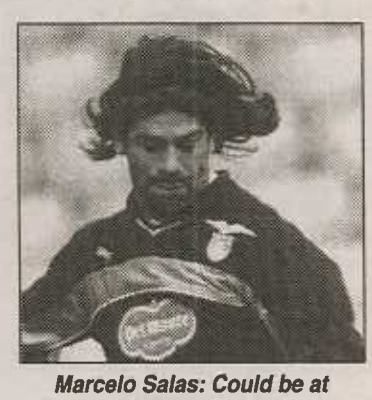
***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

Salas considering playing for Chile in the Olympics

Lazio striker Marcelo Salas is considering playing in the Olympic Games for Chile, Lazio's sporting director said last week.

"He's thinking about it, but it's not certain. A decision is likely in the near future," Felice Pulic said.

Pulic said the decision depended on how much time Salas would be left to train for the new season — which has a delayed start in Italy of October 1 — if he played for the Olympic side as one of the permitted over-age players.



Marcelo Salas: Could be at Sydney 2000.

The Olynpic final will be played in Sydney on September 30 and although the tournament is primarily for Under-23 players, each squad is allowed to include three over-age players. Salas is 26 on Christmas Eve.

Last week, Salas played a key role in Chile's 3-0 humiliation of Brazil, scoring once and creating the other two goals in their South American World Cup qualifier.

Chile Night for Brazil

Chile	3
Brazil	0

Brazil returned home sad and ashamed last week after the previous night's humiliating 3-0 World Cup qualifying defeat away to Chile.

"I feel like the rest of the Brazilian population: sad," said coach Wanderley Luxemburgo as he arrived at Sao Paulo airport following the flight from Santiago.

"All Brazilians and all the players are ashamed of what happened in Santiago," said Rivaldo who once again failed to live up to his billing as World Player of the Year.

With only the top four qualifying automatically for the 2002 World Cup, the possibility of finishing fifth and having to play off against the winners of the Oceania region — almost certainly Australia or New Zealand — is becoming a real possibility.

Nobody in Brazil is yet mentioning the unthinkable — that their team could finish outside the top five and miss out on a World Cup for the first time in their history.

Brazil had only lost one World Cup qualifier in their history until the start of the current tournament.

Now, following a defeat in Paraguay last month, they have lost two in three matches.

Luxemburgo resorted to mathematics in his attempt to try and explain the fact. "If I'm not wrong, Brazil had only ever played 44 World Cup qualifiers before this year," he said after the match.

"Now, we have to play 18 in this tournament, so the chances of us losing are much greater."

Deschamps should quit now — Platini

World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps should quit the international stage, former France skipper and coach Michel Platini said last week.

While veteran defender Laurent Blanc made his final appearance in a French shirt in a charity match against a FIFA World Stars team in Marseille, Deschamps has postponed a decision on his future.

The 31-year-old midfielder, who moved from Chelsea to Valencia in the off-season, has said he expected to play for France against England at the Stade de France on September 2.

Michel Platini

Didier Deschamps

French coach Roger Lemerre hopes to convince him to stay on in the wake of the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship triumphs but Platini said in an interview with sports daily *L'Equipe* that Deschamps should quit now.

"If I was in his place I would stop playing now," Platini said. "To finish at the top — that is the best. On the other hand if he thinks he can be a starter for the next two years I can understand why he would not stop.

"It's up to him to decide but if it was me I would retire."

Deschamps has played 101 internationals in his career stretching back to 1989 and won European Cups with Olympique Marseille and Juventus.

He has signed a three-year deal with Valencia.

I wouldn't pay $96 million for anyone – Figo

The $96 million paid by Real Madrid to make Luis Figo the world's most expensive player is an outrageous sum for any player, Figo was quoted as saying last week.

"It's the law of the market," Figo said in an interview with Spanish sports daily *Marca*. "I didn't ask anyone to pay it and it's not my fault that they did.

"If you ask me if I'd pay that amount for any player then I'd say no. It's an outrage."

Figo has already started making some of the money back for Real who announced last week that his shirt was the top seller at the club shop.

"That's another sign of the warmth with which I've been received," said Figo of his move from Barcelona.

Luis Figo: $96 million man.

Real Madrid and Barcelona bosses meet to cool feud

The newly-elected presidents of Real Madrid and Barcelona have met in an attempt to cool the bitter feud between the two giants of Spanish soccer.

Real president Florentino Perez prompted outrage in Barcelona when he lured Portugal midfielder Luis Figo from the Nou Camp for $96 million this summer.

Perez's counterpart at Barcelona Joan Gaspart, who was voted in the same day the Figo transfer went through, had hinted at revenge but the two men now appear ready to bury the hatchet after a dinner in Mallorca over the weekend.

Joan Gaspart: Barca president had meeting with Real president Florentino Perez.

"Aside from the irreconcilable sporting rivalry that has existed, exists today and will always exist, there are some things that it's good for us to talk about," Gaspart said.

"I wanted to know the personal opinion of Real Madrid's president over certain aspects related to international football, UEFA, FIFA and other federations."

Perez said: "Meetings between Real and Barcelona have not been normal in the past but maybe now they should be."

Barcelona and Real Madrid are members of the G-14 lobbying group of top European clubs:

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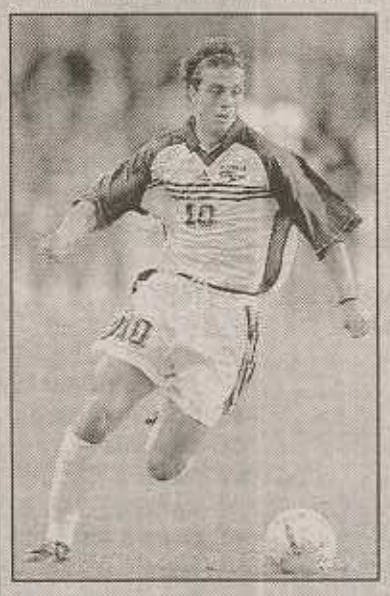
Zahovic gets Slovenia ultimatum

Slovenia coach Srecko Katanec last week warned leading midfielder Zlatko Zahovic to start playing for the team rather than himself or face a long spell on the sidelines.

The Valencia player was dropped from the recent friendly against the Czech Republic, won 1-0 by Slovenia, after the pair fell out.



Zlatko Zahovic: Ultimatum.

Local media reports said that Zahovic, who scored three of Slovenia's four goals at Euro 2000, had argued with Katanec after the coach complained that the team lacked a leader.

Katanec said: "He has to be a role model to all the others.

If he can't do it, then we can do without him, as we proved in the match against the Czech Republic.

"Soccer is an unpredictable game in which an individual is not decisive. Slovenia will definitely lose a match with Zlatko, and will win another without him."

Slovenia's soccer association has called on Zahovic to apologise to Katanec or put his international future at risk.

Slovenia play the Faroe Islands on September 3 in their first 2002 World Cup qualifier.

Zahovic had had similar problems before. Prior to his July move to Valencia, he was banned by former club Olympiakos for swearing at coach Alberto Bigon.

Xavier to fight UEFA ban in Court of Arbitration

Portuguese international Abel Xavier has decided to fight a nine-month ban by soccer's European governing body UEFA in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

CAS said that Xavier and his English Premier League club Everton had filed an appeal on Wednesday. The CAS rules on disputes between governing bodies and sportsmen.

He is protesting after UEFA earlier this month rejected his appeal against the ban for excessive protesting at Euro 2000.

"The appellants have also requested from the CAS to stay the execution of the UEFA decision until the end of the procedure before CAS," the body said in a statement.

Xavier was one of three players handed suspensions following protests during a semi-final that France won with a penalty. They apply to all UEFA club and national team competitions.

France were awarded the controversial extra-time penalty with the score at 1-1 and with a penalty shoot-out looming after defender Xavier was judged to have handled a shot by Sylvain Wiltord near the goal line.

The trouble flared after Slovak linesman Igor Sramka raised his flag to signal a handball against Xavier and kept his flag in the air after referee Guenter Benko had awarded France a corner.

Benko then consulted the linesman and changed his decision.

The Portuguese players began pushing and haranguing the referee and the linesman, who were bruised and scratched in the melee. Sramka was then pushed and insulted after Zinedine Zidane converted the penalty.

Xavier's ban is until the end of March 2001.

Polish punter banks on Chelsea

A Polish punter stands to win half a million pounds ($1.25m) if Chelsea win the the English Premier League this season.

The big-spending London club, who beat Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley, are 4-1 second favourites for the title with bookmaker William Hill.

The Pole, who has staked 100,000 pounds ($250,000) on Chelsea, lost 500,000 pounds ($1.25m) last season after tipping Darlington to win the third division play-off.

Manchester United are 8-11 favourites to retain the title with Arsenal 9-2, Liverpool 11-2 and Leeds 14-1.

WORLD

UEFA president Johannson warns of transfer "catastrophe"

UEFA president Lennart Johansson warned last week of a catastrophe waiting to happen if big clubs carry on spending huge sums of money on players in the transfer market.

Although the European Union seem set on a collision course with both UEFA and FIFA which could end with the EU ruling on abolishing the whole concept of transfer fees, Johansson said. He was still worried about the effect that the massive sums clubs were paying for players would have.

He said it was imperative that UEFA introduce a licensing system so that only well-managed clubs without huge debts could play in domestic and European competitions.

Just weeks after the world transfer record was smashed twice in a few days by the moves of Hernan Crespo from Parma to Lazio for $89 million and then by Luis Figo moving from Barcelona to European champions Real Madrid for $96 million, Johansson stressed the need for UEFA's licensing system to be in place by the end of this year.

"In the end (these transfers) will lead to some kind of catastrophe.

"When clubs that already have a very bad financial situation are spending so much money on one single player, the consequence must be that they end up in an unsustainable position.

"Nobody, not even the ones that make the outlay believe this is reasonable.

"That is why UEFA is aiming to introduce a new system that only allows clubs that can present a positive, balanced economy to play in the national league of their country. Clubs with big debts will jeopardise their right to play in that league, and subsequently the Champions League and UEFA Cup."

UEFA first unveiled this plan two years ago and stressed its importance again in May around the time of the European Cup final in Paris, ironically won by Real Madrid who have debts of around $160 million.

The European Union plan is not based on the wealth or otherwise of clubs. It wants to abolish transfer fees and give players the same rights as any other worker in Europe who can leave and work for a rival company while his own company receive no compensation.

At a stroke this would abolish the concept of the transfer fee between clubs and completely change the face of soccer for ever.

Although Johansson hopes the new club licence system would be in place by the end of the year — by then it may be an irrelevance unless the football authorities persuade the EU to drop its far-reaching plans.

Lennart Johansson: Warning.

Irwin earns reward for Old Trafford achievements

Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel often stole the limelight during Manchester United's decade of success in the 1990s but Denis Irwin was the ever-present cornerstone of the Reds' remarkable achievements.

The Irishman has been Mr Dependable during his 10 years in a United shirt, which was celebrated in a testimonial game against Manchester City last week.

United manager Alex Ferguson built a double-winning team and then dismantled it to mould a side of talented youngsters into treble winners, and the 34-year-old left back has been a permanent fixture through it all.

He moved to Old Trafford for 625,000 pounds ($1.6m) in 1990 after giving up a career in hurling to play for Leeds United and then Oldham.

"When I heard United were interested in me I didn't even want to talk to anyone else," Irwin said.

He won the first of his 26 medals for United on his debut in the Charity Shield and ended the season lifting the European Cup Winners' Cup.

His move coincided with his elevation to the Ireland team, for whom he played in the 1994 World Cup. He retired from international soccer last year after winning 56 caps.

Irwin played 40 times as United won their first title for 26 years in 1993 and has since moved to seventh in the Reds all-time appearance list with 479 as his trophy cabinet spilled over with medals.

For many seasons United's penalty taker, Irwin has scored 31 goals for the club and, along with Ryan Giggs, he has more championship medals to his credit than any other player in United's history.

Irwin has continued to sign one-year contracts with United and unusually negotiated the deals himself rather than using an agent. The league/FA Cup/European Cup treble in 1999 ranks among United's greatest achievements but Irwin does not list it as the high point in his career.

"Winning the European Cup was great but my favourite memory is that first league title win," he said.

The testimonial has been given added spice after Joe Royle, his manager at Oldham and now in charge at Manchester City, agreed to bring his newly-promoted side to Old Trafford.

It is the first time since 1996 the teams have met and the derby game serves as a prelude to the first Premier League encounter in November.

Irwin intends to enjoy these games and many more as he approaches his 35th birthday.

"Steve Bruce and Gary Pallister told me they probably left the club too early and I don't want to turn around and feel that way."

Dennis Irwin: Rewarded.

Alfonso signs for Barcelona

Spanish international striker Alfonso Perez finally became a Barcelona player last week, after several weeks of negotiations.

A day after passing his medical, Alfonso signed a four-year contract before pulling on the club's famous claret-and-blue jersey for the first time.

But he said he did not wish to inherit the number seven shirt, recently abandoned by Luis Figo who went to arch-rivals Real Madrid for a record transfer fee of $96 million last month.

Barcelona president Joan Gaspart said that Alfonso had a buy-out clause of 15,000 million pesetas ($82.23 million).

Gaspart would not discuss how much the Catalan club had paid second division Real Betis but the Spanish media has widely reported the transfer fee to be 2,200 million pesetas ($12.01 million).

Alfonso becomes Barcelona's fifth big signing of the close season after Richard Dutruel, Gerard Lopez, Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit.

Madrid-born Alfonso has been capped 38 times and made a impact during Euro 2000 with two goals in Spain's last-gasp 4-3 victory over Yugoslavia which put them into the quarter-finals.

Alfonso spent five seasons at Real Betis, who were relegated from the Spanish first division last season.

Before moving to Seville, he started his professional career at Real Madrid, making his first division debut with them in February 1991.

Alfonso Perez: New Barca signing.

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

TUESDAY AUGUST 22
English Premier League
Arsenal vs Liverpool (Replay)
Fox Sports
4.30pm – 6.30pm

SBS TV
5.30pm – 6.30pm
English Premier League Classic Matches
Fox Sports
11pm – 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23
English Premier League Show
Fox Sports
8.30pm – 10pm

English Premier League Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
11.55pm – 2am

THURSDAY AUGUST 24
English Premier League Show
Fox Sports
1pm – 2.30pm

FRIDAY AUGUST 25
Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm – 6.30pm

UEFA Super Cup
Galatasaray vs Real Madrid (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
4am – 7am (Saturday Morning)

UEFA Super Cup
Galatasaray vs Real Madrid (LIVE)
SBS TV
4.30am – 7am (Saturday Morning)

SATURDAY AUGUST 26
Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
12pm – 1pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm – 5.30pm

UEFA Super Cup
Galatasaray vs Real Madrid (Replay)
Fox Sports 2
5pm – 7pm (Saturday Morning)

English Premier League Highlights

SUNDAY AUGUST 27
English Premier League
Replay overnight match
Fox Sports
1pm – 3pm

US Major League
Columbus vs New England
Optus (ESPN)
4pm – 6pm

Scottish Premier League
Celtic vs Rangers (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
10.55am – 1am

English Premier League
Aston Villa vs Chelsea (LIVE)
Fox Sports
1am – 4.30am (Monday Morning)

MONDAY AUGUST 28
English Premier League
Aston Villa vs Chelsea (Replay)
Fox Sports 2
7am – 9am (Monday Morning)

English Premier League Highlights
Fox Sports
7.30pm – 8.30pm

English Premier League Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm – 8.30pm

Ferguson returns to Everton

Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson returned to Everton last week in a 3.75 million pound ($9.4m) move from Premier League rivals Newcastle United.

Ferguson, who left Goodison Park 21 months ago for Newcastle in an eight million-pound transfer, has signed a five-year deal.

"I had a good time at Newcastle but obviously when the chairman says 'you can go' it's time to leave," he said.

"I always knew I would come back to Everton."

Ferguson scored 12 goals in 32 appearances during an injury-plagued spell with Newcastle. He had scored 42 times in 126 starts for Everton.

The move appeared to have failed earlier. Everton had been told Ferguson would not be leaving Newcastle after the player was unable to agree a severance package. But the situation changed overnight.

"There was never a doubt in my mind that once they decided they no longer required my services I would come here," Ferguson said.

"I hope I will be good value. If I can stay fit I'm sure I will prove to be good value for Everton. At the moment I'm 100 per cent fit but I've only played 30 minutes in pre-season and I need a few games."

Manager Walter Smith has now bought Ferguson twice and sold him twice during his time as manager at Glasgow Rangers and Everton.

He was surprised Ferguson became available and was happy to sign him to strengthen his attack which is without Kevin Campbell for the first two months of the season.

"For a long time last season and the start of this (Newcastle manager) Bobby Robson said he was a part of his plans," he said. "So he wasn't top of my list of players I wanted to sign because I didn't know he was available.

"He's a good player and he can add variety to what we have at the present time."

Duncan Ferguson: Is back to Everton.

Redknapp could miss whole season

Liverpool and England midfielder Jamie Redknapp could miss the entire Premier League season through injury.

Redknapp, whose career has been blighted by a succession of injuries, is recuperating after a recent knee operation, but he told the *Liverpool Echo* last week that he would not return to competitive action before February 2001 at the earliest.

"It will be six months at best, but if it takes eight or 10 months then I will not be too bothered. I am not going to put a time limit on it," Redknapp said.

Redknapp also tried to pre-empt suggestions that his career could be over. "I am really positive that I will come back," he said.

"I have just turned 27 years of age so I have still got plenty of years ahead of me."

Redknapp missed three months of the last Premier League season through injury. It also cost him a place in the England squad for the European Championship last June.

Jamie Redknapp: Serious injury.

Zola staying at Chelsea

Chelsea striker Gianfranco Zola rubbished media reports last week that he was set to rejoin Italian side Napoli.

The 34-year-old former Italy international vowed to stay at the club following clear-the-air talks with coach Gianluca Vialli and managing director Colin Hutchinson.

Zola told the club's official Web site: "I am a man of my word. I gave Chelsea a promise that I would stay here this season and I am going to honour that promise."

Zola, who was voted English football's player of the year in his first season at Chelsea in 1996/7, has two years left on his contract.

But he admitted that two months ago he was unhappy and had been contemplating a return to Italy.

He added: "I'll give all my best to help Chelsea win the title this season. Longer term I want my family in Italy but we'll have to wait and see, that is all in the future."

Hutchinson said he was delighted that the former Napoli and Parma player had decided to stay at the London club.

He said: "Someone asked me recently which was the best signing I'd been involved with this summer and it took me all of about five seconds to say Gianfranco Zola. It's great news he's staying."

Gianfranco Zola: Staying put.

United beat City 2-0 in Irwin testimonial

Man. Utd	2
Man. City	0

Denis Irwin limped out of his own testimonial last week when more than 45,000 fans turned up at Old Trafford to pay tribute to the long-serving Manchester United defender.

United defeated Manchester City 2-0 in the game which is expected to raise more than 1.0 million pounds ($2.5m) for the Irish international fullback who has played over 450 matches for United since moving from Oldham Athletic 10 years ago.

But he failed to finish this game as he was forced to leave the field with an ice pack strapped to his ankle after just 36 minutes following a heavy tackle from new City signing George Weah.

United won with goals in each half from Teddy Sheringham and Andy Cole.

He said afterwards: "I've got a bad ankle. It's fairly sore at the moment. I tried to run it off but I couldn't. The night ended in disappointment for me but there's nothing I can do about that."

Manchester City manager Joe Royle joked: "He said it was a tackle from George Weah that did it — so he was unlucky. Tackling is not in George's contract."

Irwin's injury was not the only talking point of a full-blooded clash between the two Manchester sides, who will face each other in the Premier League this season for the first time in five seasons.

David Beckham was involved in a heated contest with Australian Danny Tiatto, while Alf Inge Haaland charged into several strong challenges.

Sheringham put United in front with a curled left-foot drive in the 36th minute after Cole had laid the ball along the edge of the box.

City did trouble United with goalkeeper Raimond van der Gouw sticking out a hand to stop Shaun Wright-Phillips chipped effort and Phil Neville clearing Spencer Prior's header off the line.

But Cole struck with two minutes left after latching onto a Quinton Fortune through ball and sliding his shot across Nicky Weaver into the net.

Anfield to stage England World Cup qualifier

Liverpool's Anfield Stadium has been chosen to stage England's first World Cup qualifier away from Wembley since 1961, the Football Association announced last week.

The Merseyside club will host the visit of Finland on March 24 as Wembley is re-built over the next three years.

The last England World Cup qualifier not to be played at Wembley was a game against Luxembourg at Arsenal's Highbury in September 1961. England won 4-1.

Aston Villa will host England's friendly against Spain at their Villa Park Stadium four weeks earlier on February 28.

"The FA have always made it clear that while Wembley is unavailable, England fixtures will be taken all around the country," said FA chief executive Adam Crozier.

England manager Kevin Keegan can expect a rapturous welcome in Liverpool where he established himself as one of Europe's finest players in the 1970s.

Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry said: "We're especially looking forward to welcoming Kevin Keegan back to Anfield where he enjoyed so much success as a player."

The final game at the current Wembley stadium will be the World Cup qualifier between England and Germany on October 7. Demolition work will begin in November.

Manchester United's Old Trafford, Sunderland's Stadium of Light and Newcastle's St James's Park are in contention to stage England's other two home qualifying games.

Bagheri joins Charlton

Newly promoted Premier League side Charlton Athletic have signed Iranian international Karim Bagheri on a four-year contract after he impressed during a trial, the London club reported on their Web site last week.

The 26-year-old, who has 70 caps, joined the for 400,000 pounds ($1m) from Piroozi in Iran, although the figure could rise to 1.1 million pounds ($2.75 million) depending on appearances. He will become the first Iranian to play in the Premier League.

Charlton manager Alan Curbishley was quoted as saying: "We're delighted to have signed someone of Karim's versatility and quality. He is someone we can use in a variety of positions and I'm sure he'll make a big impression."

Charlton have now spent more than 8.0 million pounds ($20m) on new players this summer following the purchases of Claus Jensen (4.0 million pounds) from Bolton, Jonatan Johansson (3.75 million pounds) from Glasgow Rangers and Rodostin Kishishev (300,000 pounds) from Liteks Lovech of Bulgaria.

WORLD

Roma's Emerson out for six months

AS Roma's Brazil international midfielder Emerson underwent surgery on his left knee over the weekend and could be out of action for around six months.

Emerson, who joined the Serie A side from Bayer Leverkusen last month for a Bundesliga record 36 billion lire ($16.88 million), tore a cruciate ligament when he fell awkwardly in training last week.

"In general these types of injuries take about six months to heal but it depends on the player's mentality," surgeon Pier Paolo Mariani said.

"The fact that the player already underwent a similar operation seven years ago is positive. It means he knows what he's up against."

Roma coach Fabio Capello cursed his luck and said Emerson's injury was a serious blow.

Emerson: Set to miss most of the season.

"It's absurd, he's torn his knee while he was unmarked, running, changing direction.

"It was a really banal accident but that's often the case with cruciate injuries."

Emerson's absence could weigh heavily on Roma during the Olympic Games when fellow midfielders Cristiano Zanetti and Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata are both in Sydney.

Lens may chase Baggio

French first division leaders RC Lens may try to sign former Italy international striker Roberto Baggio.

Coach Rolland Courbis is considering a move for the 33-year-old who is out of contract with Inter Milan, sources close to the club said over the weekend.

No transfer fee would be involved, but Baggio's salary demands may prove to be too high for Lens even though they have money to spend after selling several players during the close-season.

Courbis confirmed after Lens' 2-1 win over Toulouse last week that he was looking for another attacker. But he has not confirmed reports linking him with Baggio, who is currently training on his own in Italy.

Roberto Baggio: Bound for France?

WORLD RESULTS... WORLD RESULTS...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United 2 Newcastle United 0, Charlton Athletic 4 Manchester City 0, Chelsea 4 West Ham United 2, Coventry City 1 Middlesbrough 3, Derby County 2 Southampton 2, Leeds United 2 Everton 0, Leicester City 0 Aston Villa 0, Liverpool 1 Bradford City 0, Sunderland 1 Arsenal 0, Tottenham Hotspur 3 Ipswich Town 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Charlton	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**
2. Chelsea	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
3. M'brough	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
4. Tottenham	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
5. Leeds United	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
6. Man United	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
7. Liverpool	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
8. Sunderland	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9. Derby County	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
10. Southampton	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
11. Aston Villa	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
12. Leicester	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
13. Arsenal	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
14. Bradfor	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. West Ham	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
16. Coventry	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
17. Ipswich Twn	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
18. Everton	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
19. Newcastle	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
20. Man City	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Crystal Palace 1 Queens Park Rangers 1, Burnley 1 Wimbledon 0, Crewe 0 Blackburn 0, Norwich 0 Nottingham Forest 0, Portsmouth 1 Grimsby 1, Preston 3 Sheffield United 0, Sheffield Wednesday 2 Huddersfield 3, Stockport 1 Wolverhampton 1, Tranmere 3 Gillingham 2, Watford 1 Barnsley 0, West Bromwich 0 Bolton 2, Birmingham 1 Fulham 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fulham	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**6**
2. Preston	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
3. Watford	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
4. Stockport	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
5. Bolton	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
6. Blackburn	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
7. Tranmere	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
8. Burnley	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
9. Notts Forest	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
10. Huddersfield	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
11. Barnsley	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
12. Sheff. United	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
13. W'hampton	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
14. QPR	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
15. Sheff. Wed	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
16. Grimsby	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
17. Norwich	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
18. Wimbledon	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
19. Birmingham	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
20. Crystal Plc	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
21. Portsmouth	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
22. Crewe	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
23. Gillingham	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
24. West Brom	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Peterborough 2 Bristol Rovers 2, Bournemouth 1 Cambridge 1, Brentford 0 Swansea 0, Bristol City 1 Stoke 2, Bury 1 Wrexham 4, Notts County 3 Millwall 4, Port Vale 3 Oxford 0, Reading 2 Swindon 0, Walsall 3 Oldham 2, Wigan 2 Luton 1, Wycombe 1 Northampton 0, Colchester 0 Rotherham 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Millwall	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**3**	**6**
2. Walsall	2	2	0	0	6	4	6
3. Peterborough	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
4. Stoke	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
5. Wigan	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
6. Wycombe	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
7. Oldham	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
8. Wrexham	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
9. Bristol City	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
10. Notts County	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
11. Port Vale	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
12. Rotherham	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
13. Reading	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
14. Bury	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
15. Bristol Rvrs	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
16. Bournemouth	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
17. Brentford	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
18. Swansea	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
19. Cambridge	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
20. Northampton	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
21. Colchester	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
22. Swindon	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
23. Luton	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
24. Oxford	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 3 Mansfield Town 3, Brighton & Hove Albion 2 Rochdale 1, Cardiff City 1 Blackpool 1, Darlington 1 Exeter City 1, Halifax Town 1 Lincoln City 1, Hartlepool 1 Chesterfield 2, Hull City 1 Plymouth Argyle 1, Leyton Orient 1 Carlisle United 0, Scunthorpe United 2 Kidderminster Harriers 0, Shrewsbury Town 2 Macclesfield Town 2, Torquay United 1 Southend United 1, York City 0 Cheltenham Town 2.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberdeen 0 Hibernian 2, Dundee United 1 St Johnstone 2, Hearts 2 Celtic 4, Kilmarnock 3 Motherwell 2, Rangers 4 Dunfermline Athletic 1, St Mirren 2 Dundee 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hibernian	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**1**	**13**
2. Rangers	4	4	0	0	13	5	12
3. Celtic	4	4	0	0	9	4	12
4. Dundee	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
5. Kilmarnock	5	2	0	3	7	9	6
6. St Johnstone	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
7. Aberdeen	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
8. Dunfermline	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
9. Hearts	4	0	3	1	5	7	3
10. St Mirren	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
11. Dundee Utd	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
12. Motherwell	5	0	1	4	3	8	1

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Ayr 3 Airdrieonians 1, Clyde 1 Livingston 1, Inverness C.Thistle 2 Falkirk 3, Morton 2 Alloa 0, Raith v Ross County postponed.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath 1 Clydebank 0, Queens Park 1 Queen of South 0, Stenhousemuir 4 Partick 0, Stirling 3 Forfar 3, Stranraer 2 Berwick 2.

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion 1 Elgin 1, Brechin 0 Cowdenbeath 0, East Stirling 2 East Fife 5, Hamilton 6 Montrose 0, Peterhead 2 Dumbarton 0.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hansa Rostock 0 Schalke 04 4, Cologne 4 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, TSV 1860 Munich 2 Werder Bremen 1, SpVgg Unterhaching 1 SC Freiburg 1, VfL Wolsburg 4 Kaiserslautern 0, VfL Bochum 0 Bayern Munich 3, Hertha Berlin 4 Hamburg SV 0, VfB Stuttgart 4 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Energie Cottbus 1 Borussia Dortmund 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Byrn Munich	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**1**	**6**
2. Schalke 04	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
3. B Dortmund	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
4. SC Freiburg	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
5. 1860 Munich	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
6. Cologne	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
7. VfL Wolfsburg	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
8. Hertha Berlin	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
9. W Bremen	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
10. E Frankfurt	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
11. VfB Stuttgart	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
12. B Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
13. VfL Bochum	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
14. Unterhaching	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
15. Hamburg SV	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
16. E Cottbus	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
17. K'slautern	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
18. H Rostock	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Vitesse Arnhem 3 Twente Enschede 1, Groningen 1 Willem II Tilburg 1, Utrecht 2 Heerenveen 0, RBC Roosendaal 2 NEC Nijmegen 3, NAC Breda 0 RKC Waalwijk 1, Graafschap Doetinchem 2 PSV Eindhoven 0 Feyenoord 2 AZ Alkmaar 0, Sparta Rotterdam 2 Roda JC Kerkrade 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Vitesse	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**3**
2. G Doetinchem	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Feyenoord	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
4. Utrecht	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
5. NEC Nijmegen	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
6. RKC Waalwijk	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7. Roda JC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
8. Spt Rotterdam	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
9. Groningen	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
10. Willem II	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
11. Ajax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. F Sittard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Roosendaal	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
14. NAC Breda	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. T. Enschede	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
16. Heerenveen	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
17. AZ Alkmaar	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
18. PSV	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Monaco 1 En Avant Guingamp 0, St Etienne 1 Girondins Bordeaux 0, Nantes 3 Olympique Marseille 2, RC Lens 2 Toulouse 1, Sedan 1 Lille 0, Metz 1 Paris St Germain 0, Stade Rennes 3 Strasbourg 0, Troyes 1 AJ Auxerre 0, Bastia 2 Olympique Lyon 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. RC Lens	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**3**	**10**
2. Bastia	4	3	0	1	5	1	9
3. Nantes	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
4. St Etienne	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
5. Lille	4	2	1	1	6	2	7
6. PSG	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
7. Sedan	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
8. Monaco	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
9. AJ Auxerre	4	2	0	2	3	3	6
10. Stade Rennes	4	1	2	1	6	4	5
11. Metz	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
12. Troyes	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
13. Marseille	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
14. Lyon	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
15. Toulouse	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
16. Bordeaux	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
17. Guingamp	4	0	1	3	4	7	1
18. Strasbourg	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

PORTUGESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Aves 0 Belenenses 1, Salgueiros 1 Pacos Ferreira 0, Gil Vicente 1 Campomaiorense 1, Alvcerca 0 Maritimo 0, Uniao Leiria 2 Estrela Amadora 0, Sporting Lisbon 1 Farense 0, Porto 2 Benfica 0, Braga 1 Vitoria Guimaraes 0, Beira Mar 2 Boavista 4.

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Otelul Galati 0 Petrolul Ploiesti 2, Rapid Bucharest 2 Rocar Bucharest 3, Gaz Metan Medias 0 FCM Bacau 0, Astra Ploiesti 2 Gloria Bistrita 0, Universitatea Craiova 1 Foresta Falticeni 0, Steaua Bucharest 4 Dinamo Bucharest 1, Arges Pitesti 2 Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 1, National Bucharest 0 Brasov 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. S. Bucharest	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**9**	**5**	**7**
2. R Bucharest	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
3. Uni Craiova	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
4. Brasov	3	2	0	1	2	1	6
5. Arges Pitesti	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
6. Gaz Medias	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
7. FCM Bacau	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
8. Rpd Bucharest	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9. Falticeni	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
10. Ploiesti	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
11. D Bucharest	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
12. Otelul Galati	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
13. Astra Ploiesti	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
14. N. Bucharest	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
15. Piatra Neamt	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
16. Glr Bistrita	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Sibenik 1 Zagreb 3, Rijeka 2 Varteks 2, Cakovec 2 Hajduk 0, Slaven Belupo 3 Marsonia 1, Cibalia 1 Osijek 1, Hrv.Dragovoljac v Dinamo postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**1**	**9**
2. Hajduk	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
3. Osijek	4	2	2	0	9	7	8
4. Varteks	4	1	3	0	8	5	6
5. Zagreb	4	2	0	2	9	9	6
6. Sibenik	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
7. Dragovoljac	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
8. Slaven Belupo	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
9. Cakovec	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
10. Rijeka	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
11. Cibalia	4	0	2	2	2	10	2
12. Marsonia	4	0	0	4	3	9	0

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Cukaricki Belgrade 3 Radnicki Nis 2, Obilic Belgrade 2 Hajduk Kula 1, Sartid Smederevo 3 Partizan Belgrade 2, Radnicki Kragujevac 1 OFK Beograd Belgrade 0, Napredak Krusevac 1 Vojvodina Novi Sad 0, Zeleznik Belgrade 3 Sutjeska Niksic 0, Buducnost Podgorica 0 Zemun Belgrade 0, Milicionar Belgrade 2 Rad Belgrade 0, Red Star 3 Zeta Golubovci 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Red Star	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**6**
2. Zel. Belgrade	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
3. Std Smederevo	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
4. Vojvodina Sad	2	1	0	1	5	1	3
5. Prtz Belgrade	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
6. Z. Golubovci	2	1	0	1	4	3	3

WORLD CUP 2002 QUALIFIER

EUROPE GROUP TWO

Estonia 1 Andorra 0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

Japan 3 United Arab Emirates 1, Iran 2 Georgia 1, **Russia 1 Israel 0,** Czech Republic 0 Slovenia 1, **Moldova 1 Malta 0,** Romania 1 Poland 1, **Latvia 0 Belarus 1,** Finland 3 Norway 1, **Bulgaria 1 Belgium 3,** Faroe Islands 0 Denmark 2, **Portugal 5 Lithuania 1,** Slovakia 1 Croatia 1, **Bosnia 2 Turkey 0,** Germany 4 Spain 1, **Switzerland 2 Greece 2,** Iceland 2 Sweden 1, **Northern Ireland 1 Yugoslavia 2,** France 5 FIFA World Stars 1, **Hungary 1 Austria 1.**

PAUL GASCOIGNE

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